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Rt. Hon. R. J. Seddon's

Visit to the

South Sea Islands.

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THE

RIGHT HON. R. J. SEDDON'S

(THE PREMIER OF NEW ZEALAND)

VISIT

TO

TONGA, FIJI, SAVAGE ISLAND,

AND THE

COOK ISLANDS.

MAY, 1900.

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THE

RIGHT HON. R. J. SEDDON'S

VISIT TO THE

SOUTH SEA ISLANDS.

EARLY in May, 1900, the health of the Premier of New Zealand, the Right Hon. R. J. Seddon, P.C., LL.D., broke down suddenly. It became evident to his friends, as to his medical advisers, that absolute rest from worry was essential to his recovery. Such rest was not to be found within the boundaries of the colony, for if retreat from telegraph and telephone was possible in some retired and sequestered nook of the interior, no such place could be found that was equally impregnable to the attack of the official and the deputation. It was therefore determined that relief must be sought in places with which communication was impossible, and which at the same time might give interest and pleasure to an invalid. Rarotonga and the other islands of the Cook Group in the South Seas was therefore decided upon as the destination of the voyage.

The New Zealand winter had hardly set in when departure was made. On the night of the 16th of May, Mr. Seddon, with his family, several officers, and friends embarked on the Government despatch-boat, the s.s. "Tutanekai." The other members of the Cabinet came on board at midnight to bid farewell to their chief, to wish him "God-speed," and a safe return with health restored. They departing, the bustle of a ship getting ready for sea made itself apparent, and at about half-past two o'clock in the morning of the 17th the screw began its

vibrations and the vessel its long voyage. Sleepers took full advantage of their bunks next day, and only a few appeared on deck as we crept up the coast of the North Island as far as Cape Turnagain. Then the nose of the "Tutanekai" sniffed round to the north-east as she started on the course for Rarotonga and the "Summer Isles of Eden." The sea was calm and the breeze light, but there was enough swell on to remind all who were not good sailors that *mal de mer* was not a thing of the past. A delicate sunset marked the close of the first day, and we said "good-bye" to New Zealand as it sank in a vivid glow of green, bordered on each side with red and lilac and gold.

The next day was also without wind, but the heaving sea caused a sparse attendance at the dinner-table. This was Friday, but, to our surprise, we found that next day was Friday also, though New-Zealanders called it Saturday; we had crossed the 180th parallel of longitude and "got into yesterday." The night of the first Friday the sea increased its roughness, and all the second Friday it was rolling its hills and valleys right into our teeth. Wind and sea ahead, all but four of us prostrate, and some had eaten nothing since the start. Delightful place is the sea for some voyagers!—the buoyancy and life of old ocean bring them little pleasure. As the green seas broke over the bows of the steamer, and poured cascades of foam down from the forecastle on to the main deck, the heavy thumps and tumblings awoke no yearnings "for a life on the ocean wave."

On Saturday, the 19th (eastern time), things got worse and worse. The night had been beyond words; the day was fiendish in its discomfort. The steamer seemed smothered in the immense head seas. Even an albatross found the weather too bad for him, and came aboard after collision with a wire rope. It was exhibited to the passengers, and an attempt was made to awaken the interest of the ladies in the visitor, but they were not in the humour for the study of natural history, and the un-

First Day on Deck after Storm.

willing guest was speeded on its way — overboard, to its friends astern. On Sunday life was endured — just endured; seas, mountains high, travelling right from the place to which we wished to go. Every day the length of the distance run diminished, and the hope of a quick passage disappeared. It was warmer, however, and two little flying-fish came on board—a titbit for the cat. The Premier and all on board were much concerned about Master Stuart Seddon, who had been ill during the voyage, and at 6 p.m. instructions were given to Captain Post to change the course, and, instead of running north-east for Rarotonga, to steer north-west for Tonga. The ladies too, without exception, had endured days and nights of suffering, and hailed with delight the intimation of the change of course. The new direction caused an instant alleviation of discomfort. The vessel rolled, but the headlong plunging ceased; the motion became only a heaving, twisting lurch instead of a series of crashes, and the direct pummelling by Neptune was over. It was about time. One of the male passengers was asked, soon after we turned, whether he could eat anything yet, and replied that he had just had "a good feed of seidlitz-powder"— quite a light and æsthetic diet.

That night every one slept, and little Stuart began to recover. In the morning the sea, though still rolling, was very beautiful. Around were small flights of flying-fish, looking like white sea-swallows as they rose and dipt into the waves. In the evening the ladies appeared at dinner for the first time, were received with acclamation, and later we went to sleep, cheered with the promise that Tonga would be in sight at daybreak.

It has been omitted to mention that on turning and running westward we had crossed the abominable longitude limit again and "got in to-morrow"—this time by dropping Wednesday out. Our poor watches had been put forwards and backwards till they were all "at sea," and as to the days of the month or week, we had become hopelessly fogged. However, we will fix this period by saying that when we awoke we were close to Tonga, and, as

Tonga keeps New Zealand time, it was Thursday, the 24th May.

At daybreak land was in sight; we passed the high bluffs of a small outlying island, and saw the low land of Tongatabu (*Tonga tabu*, "Holy Tonga") ahead on the port bow. We were glad to see any land after our long trip of day after day among wastes of tumbling water, and we saw the new lands under the tender glories of an exquisite sunrise, although the shore lay opposite to the rising sun. First into the soft grey crept a tint of delicate shell-pink, which lost itself in a pearly-blue, growing more intense as the sun rose higher. Away on the other side of the ship, over rounded green islands against the sky-line, rose a dazzling glowing ball, the sun-god Ra of Polynesia, pushing great horned rays through clouds of brown and gold—gold so glowing and vivid that the eye could hardly bear its splendour.

It may here be remarked that the expectation of magnificent displays of colour in the sunsets and sunrises of the tropics were not fulfilled. We saw no melting hues of crimson and amber, orange and violet, purple and green, such as we had imagined would clothe the rising and parting day with splendour. Our dawns and evening glows were all "studies in brown and gold"; infinite varieties of these, from the sombre heavy mass with glittering border, to the downy gold-feathers of the light clouds effulgent in mid-heaven; but always and everywhere the same peculiar tone and "treatment" of the subject by Nature, the Master-painter.

Along the horizon, under the sun, the sky-line was broken by a curious pulsation or slow rippling motion. This was caused by the giant rollers rushing along the distant reef, each humping its mighty back for the sullen charge along the coral barrier.

As we rounded a point, we saw from a tiny, densely-wooded island a flag go up—a red-cross flag, the ensign of the Kingdom of Tonga—and out came the pilot-boat with the old pilot "Friday" on board. The boat was manned by stalwart islanders, naked to the waist, where the brown

Ready for Shore: Tonga.

skin met the blue *vala*, or long kilt of dark-cotton stuff. The pilot mounted the bridge and took charge, the passage being full of dangerous reefs. As we neared Nukualofa, the capital of Tonga, flags were flying in all directions in honour of Her Majesty's birthday, the royal standard of Tonga floating its immense folds from the roof of the King's palace. The "Tutanekai" was also covered with streamers of flying bunting, and as we came up to the wharf the discharge of heavy guns woke the silence of the town. This was through a mistake, for from the flowing pennant and her unlikeness to a trading vessel our gallant ship was thought to be a man-of-war. We, however, had no "full-mouthed cannon" with which to utter a polite reply; we bore only the "doves of peace." As we made fast to the wharf, on the edge of the reef, there poured along the causeway from the town a stream of picturesque youngsters, racing down to get first sight of the new *papalangi* (white people). Some of the children were the dearest of little brown mites of things, big-eyed and chubby-mouthed, clad in *vala* of all colours. The photographers were soon busy and had a group taken. The ladies of our party could hardly refrain from hugging the queer new dusky pets. We looked over the edge of the wharf, and saw swimming in the shallow water on the reef tiny fish of the most beautiful ultramarine blue. These were the coral-fish, and the eye that did not delight in such exquisite little flashes of rare colour would serve its owner poorly. Mr. Seddon went up to the town to visit the Tongan Premier, Jiosateki, Toga vei Kune, who had sent an invitation to him, and passed the morning talking official business and making inquiries as to the condition of the country.

Mr. Seddon found in the Premier of Tonga a man of spare build and of thoughtful expression—one who might be mistaken for a missionary, as his traits of character seemed more of a spiritual than temporal nature. He made inquiries about New Zealand and its people, and said how very pleased he was to welcome our Premier here. He (Jiosateki) was greatly troubled just at that

time in preparing the Speech from the Throne, to be delivered next day at the opening of Parliament. To this Mr. Seddon replied that he had sympathy, as he had prepared no less than eight Speeches from the Throne, and that such things were easy enough if the finances were all right. His last balance showed three million dollars to the good. (We may here mention that the auditor of Tongan accounts reports 25,000 dollars missing, but whether lost by bad book-keeping or otherwise he cannot say.) Jiosateki invited Mr. Seddon to attend the opening of Parliament, and was answered that it would be a great pleasure, and a change from opening the New Zealand Parliament, at which he (Mr. Seddon) had attended twenty-three times. The Tongan Premier asked if Mr. Seddon would like to see the King at once, and Mr. Seddon answered, that as they were all busy and his time was limited, the sooner the better. Mrs. Seddon was then introduced to the Tongan Premier, and, in answer to his remark that this was an anxious time for him, replied that it was so for her also, as she was troubled about the state of her husband's health. The interview then terminated.

The rest of the visitors formed a party of exploration—that most delightful of occupations in a beautiful land—among strange people in unfamiliar costumes, and where every fresh turn of street and lane opened new vistas of beauty to the eye. Towering overhead were the lofty trunks and feathery plumes of the cocopalms; lower, the bright green bananas, and gorgeous flowers in every hedgerow. Great bells of crimson and yellow hibiscus bent over into the streets, and soon the passengers were decorated in hat and waistbelt with the exquisite blossoms. The town is very level. The streets are grassed, not metalled, and the short springy turf makes delightful walking. It is entirely free from weeds, as each householder has to keep the portion of road or street in front of his property in spotless order; so a very frequent figure was that of a squatting or sitting native, digging weeds out with a formidable knife. These

Sports at Tonga on the Queen's Birthday.

knives are to be seen in all the South Sea Islands; shaped like a butcher's knife, but with a blade nearly 2 ft. long, they are ugly-looking weapons. When on a lonely road half a dozen savage-looking black or brown fellows, semi-nude, surround one suddenly, the sight of these knives in their hands conveys a feeling momentarily like that of water running down the spine. To return to the visitors. They were under the guidance of a young chief named Maafu, a man of high rank and of very pleasing ways, as well as of exceeding good looks. His pleasant English was spoken with the sweet and soft Tongan voice, surely the most musical of all voices. Maafu led us to a plantation in which many fruits abounded. The day was very hot, and cool drinks desirable, so one young native was sent up a palm to throw down green coconuts. Straight as a mast rose the shaft of the tree to a height of 60 ft. or 70 ft., yet, using only hands and feet, up this the Tongan boy ascended. No hugging the trunk, but "walking" up the tree as if on a ladder. Thud! down comes our first coconut, another, and another, till seven or eight are lying ready for use. A brown imp pushes into the ground a stick pointed at both ends, and on the upper point beats the nut until the husk is torn off; then the top of the nut is cut off exactly as we cut off the top of an egg, and the green cup, filled to its brim with cool sweet water, is handed round. Oranges are shaken from the trees and piled in profusion. Mammy-apples, something like rock-melon, but without the musky flavour, became great favourites. As the guests sat in a circle, each holding both hands full of fruit (and only wanting a few more hands), one of the party tried to "snap" the group with his kodak, when, alarmed by screams and by looks of affright directed over his shoulder, he turned his head only to perceive within a foot of him the horns and head of a young bull, which, tethered close to the fence, had silently moved up to investigate the stooping figure, apparently also with a view to eject-ment. It was, however, a regular Tongan bull, gentle and easily "shoo'd" away. Having again set out, we

followed our guide to see the tomb of the late king. We could see a mass of white stone surmounted by a sculptured lion, but could not approach it, as it stood in the midst of a wide field that was encircled by a formidable fence, having a padlocked gate. Maafu explained that the key was lost, and said he would break the lock, and another could be bought; we, however, would not allow this destruction of property on our account, and left old King George to rest in peace. The soil in this place was covered with a curious running weed, having leaves like the acacia, but so sensitive that the slightest touch would make them close up. We passed a very noble tree standing in one of the streets; it is called *ovava*, somewhat resembling a gigantic and symmetrical beech-tree. Under the deep shade of its foliage *fono* or councils used to be held. Another tree, smaller, but of exceedingly perfect form, was the *tohuni;* it was covered with white flowers, and formed a delightful resting-place. One of these trees is to be found depicted on the Tongan penny postage-stamp. The day was said by residents to be unusually hot, but none of us thought it unpleasant; hotter days have been known in New Zealand. We returned to the steamer for lunch, highly pleased with our first little excursion into the strangers' land.

The time of our arrival was particularly opportune, because, a few days before, Mr. Basil Thomson, the "Envoy Extraordinary" from Fiji, had been in Tonga making arrangements for a Protectorate over the islands by Great Britain. There had been much plain speaking on the part of the British diplomatist, and some reluctance on the part of His Tongan Majesty to sign the agreement. After much friction the King signed a document which Mr. Thomson considered sufficient to establish the Protectorate, and the following Proclamation was issued :—

PROCLAMATION.

British Consulate, Tonga.

WHEREAS His Majesty the King of Tonga has been pleased to sign an agreement, dated the 2nd May, 1900, and a treaty dated the 18th May, 1900, wherein he agrees that his relations with foreign Powers shall be conducted under the sole advice of Her

Music hath Charms: Tonga.

Britannic Majesty's Government, and that Her Majesty shall protect His Majesty's dominions from external hostile attacks: It is hereby proclaimed that a Protectorate by Her Britannic Majesty has been established accordingly, and all persons concerned are commanded to take notice of this establishment.

(Signed) Basil Home Thomson,

H.B.M. Envoy Extraordinary
to H.M. the King of Tonga.

To this Proclamation, the terms of which are warmly upheld by the European residents and by at least a considerable part of the native population, the King does not give unqualified assent, but rather reads certain ideas into it between the lines. Before, however, the position can be properly understood by outsiders a brief *résumé* of the state of affairs in the Tongan community may not be unwelcome. When the late King George Tubou reigned he had for many years as Premier and chief adviser the Rev. Shirley Baker. Mr. Baker had come to Tonga as a Wesleyan minister, but conceived the idea that the large sums of money raised in Tonga for the Wesleyan Church would be better employed if kept in Tonga than if sent home annually to be expended under the control of the Conference. His cry was "Tonga for the Tongans," and with this end in view he severed his connection with the Wesleyan body and started "The State Church of Tonga." This was in form Wesleyan, except that it was financially independent. He thus became at once Premier and high priest, and, as the late king was entirely in his hands, his power became absolute. He controlled the finances and the whole direction of affairs, practically being accountable to no one, the native Ministers of the Crown being mere puppets or shadows. His enemies affirm that his rule was of iron, autocratic and Cromwellian; that his selfishness was intolerable; that the Tongans were oppressed, and many of the best of them driven into exile. We merely give this statement for what it is worth, as the expression of the views of his opponents. However, it is certain that on complaint being made to the Lord High Commissioner of the Pacific, that officer investigated some of the cases on which the allegations

had been made, and as a result deported the Hon. and Rev. Shirley Baker from the Tongan Islands for some years. On the other hand, those who visit Tonga and see what was done in the way of erecting royal and public buildings, in setting up colleges and schools, in laying down a high moral code, and in a hundred ways benefiting the native race, must acknowledge that the rule of Mr. Baker was in many ways that of a "beneficent autocrat," and that the iron will was devoted more to promote public good than to advance private ends.

The Rev. Mr. Watkins, who was a coadjutor of the Rev. Mr. Baker before the latter seceded from the Wesleyan community, is still a trusted adviser of the Throne, and we of the "Tutanekai" owe much to the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Watkins in procuring privileges for us not accorded to the general visitor. The present King, George Tubou II. (his private name is Jiaoji Fatafehi Tui Balehake), is reserved and unapproachable, whether from personal disposition or State reasons it seems difficult to say. There is a strong Opposition party in Tonga, and many are obstinately opposed to the policy and person of the present King. It arises from the different conceptions of the royal power held by the King himself and the leading nobles. The King considers himself as the supreme ruler, and that his Ministers and Parliament are only his advisers, whose opinions and advice he is fully at liberty to reject if he chooses. The chiefs consider the King to be only the head chief; that he is but "*primus inter pares*," and should act by advice of his peers in council. Nominally the King does do this, but his opponents say that it only makes matters worse; that they would rather not be consulted at all than asked for advice which the King will afterwards utterly flout and treat with contempt. The story of the royal marriage is an admirable example of how the Opposition party regard the King. It has been told in New Zealand as a romantic narrative, in which the King persisted in marrying the girl he loved, in spite of his chiefs and Ministers. The other side of the story is this: Tugi

Orange juggling, Tonga.

(pronounced "Tungi") was a chief of rank so high that when the late King died the former was by right of birth successor to the throne. Being, however, old and nearly blind, he felt unfit for the cares of State and the show of royalty, so withdrew any claim of his so as to allow the present King to ascend the throne. It was, however, understood that the King was to marry Ofa, the granddaughter of Tugi, and so the blood of both lines would merge. The King was nothing loth, for Ofa is young and prepossessing; but it happened that when negotiations were proceeding the unfortunate remark was made to the King that he would strengthen his position by marrying Ofa, because she was of better blood than himself. The pride of the monarch was aroused. "There is no one in Tonga who would not be honoured in being raised to share the throne of Tonga," he said, and conceived strong animus against the marriage. For a year the struggle went on, as to whether Ofa or the King's new choice, Lavinia, should be Queen. It ended in the King calling for the advice of his chiefs, and when they counselled his marriage with Ofa he did what it is said he had made up his mind a year before to do—viz., reject both the advice and the girl. He married Lavinia, the present Queen. As there is a population of some 19,000 in the three groups of islands —Tonga, Haapai, and Vavau—it is certainly a position of dignity and power. Thus, then, the politics of Tonga at present.

Anxiety to know what the King would do next was expressed both on the part of European residents and of natives. Will he fully recognise the Protectorate of Britain or not? Will he reform his Ministry, and put honest men in power? At present there is a great leakage in the public treasury, openly acknowledged, but unexplained except as "perhaps bad book-keeping." So the Opposition say that the King's proud reserve only means that, unless he is surrounded by guards, he dare not leave the palace; neither does the Queen, who has not been outside the precincts since she entered them on her

marriage, more than a year ago. It must be remembered, however, that there is no "manhood suffrage" in Tonga; it is not a question of the people regarding their liberties as infringed by the Crown. It is the position of the chiefs that is in dispute. If we may draw an historical parallel, the Tongan position resembles, not the quarrel of Charles I. and the people, but the dispute between King John and the nobles which ended at Runnymede. This explanation may serve to render more clear any account as to modern affairs referred to by Mr. Seddon during his stay at Nukualofa.

Mr. Seddon, on leaving the Premier of Tonga in the morning, had met Mr. Leefe, the British Consul, who was on his way to the steamer to call on the visitors. The Consul is a most interesting personality; he has been in the Tongan Islands since 1887, and gave much valuable information. He said that the people were fairly prosperous, but somewhat perturbed by the visit of Mr. Basil Thomson, the report having been spread that the rule of their own islands had been taken away. Mr. Leefe then informed Mr. Seddon that the King had fixed an interview with the Premier of New Zealand for 12 noon. The following letter was sent to the British Consulate:—

Premier's Office, Nukualofa, 24th May, 1900.

Dear Sir,—

I am directed by the Hon. the Premier of Tonga to inform you that it is free for you to visit His Majesty the King of Tonga in His Royal Palace at noon to-day.

I remain, &c.,

T. Bolutele Kaho,
Private Secretary.

The Hon. the Premier of New Zealand,
R. J. Seddon, Esq.

It was evident that the appearance of Mr. Seddon was already known to the guards and constabulary, as arms were presented to him wherever he appeared. Mr. Seddon proceeded to the palace, accompanied by Mrs. Seddon and Mr. Hamer, his Private Secretary. On the party being ushered into the throne-room, the King was announced, and King George gave King Richard a hearty welcome. For once the New Zealand Premier took a back place in

The Palace, Nukualofa.

regard to size and weight, for the young Tongan ruler stands about 6 ft. 4 in. in height, and weighs about twenty-five stone, against Mr. Seddon's twenty. The King expressed his pleasure at the visit, as this was the first Premier of a British colony who had come to Tonga; Sir George Dibbs had been there, but not while in office. The King inquired how long the "Tutanekai" was going to stay, and on Mr. Seddon replying that he was on a voyage for health and rest's sake the King made him a happy and courteous compliment. He said that, though he regretted Mr. Seddon's weak health, he could not be so sorry as he ought, because it had led to his having the pleasure of seeing Mr. Seddon there. The King then referred, as his Premier had done, to anxiety felt in composing the Speech from the Throne, and was told that in New Zealand the Crown had no difficulty of the sort, as the Speech was put ready made into His Excellency's hands. The King sighed and said that he wished it was done that way in Tonga. Conversation then ensued as to the state of things in New Zealand, and the King was informed that the people were prosperous, and that so long as things went well there was little trouble about parliamentary affairs, especially if the Colonial Treasurer felt at ease. The people in New Zealand had a friendly disposition towards the South Sea Islands, and would help the natives if they could. The King referred to his having been educated in Auckland, and that he hoped some day to be able to revisit his old friends. He was answered that if he visited New Zealand he would receive a very hearty welcome. Reference was then made to the means of communication between New Zealand and the different island groups, and it was agreed that there was great room for improvement. Mr. Seddon informed the King that he intended to submit to the Rarotongan authorities proposals for a Postal Convention between the Cook Islands and New Zealand on lines similar to those in existence at Fiji; it would be a great convenience for the islands, and of some small advantage to colonial trade. Mr. Seddon was quite prepared to consider similar pro-

posals from the Tongan Government. It would be of much convenience to people sending orders for goods either to or from New Zealand to be able to forward money in postal-notes. The King was much impressed, and, inquiring whether the matter could be dealt with at once, was answered that if the arrangement could be discussed that afternoon it could be mentioned in the Speech the following day. It would be better to settle it at once, as if communication had to take place with New Zealand there would be long delay, while in the present case there could be no doubt but that ratification by the New Zealand Parliament would follow. The hour of four in the afternoon was then fixed for consideration of the scheme. The King expressed himself as very anxious to hear late news of the war in South Africa. The opening was taken advantage of by the Premier to impress the King with the benefits to be derived from the protection of Great Britain. He explained that practically the Boers were beaten, and in their hearts bitterly regretted that they had ever broken their agreement with the British Crown. Reference was made to the Premier's visit to England at the time of the Queen's Jubilee, when at Spithead there were lines measuring twenty-five miles of spare ships available for show during peace. These and other fleets of Britain were prepared to sweep the ocean clear of all foes of the flag, and that fact maintained the peace of the world. The King was evidently struck by the magnitude of the power described, and by the idea that its potency might be exercised on his behalf if necessary. With inquiries on family matters the reception ended.

In the afternoon we went to the sports, which were held in a large field near the wharf and fronting the sea. Not only was the place bright with flags for our Queen's birthday, but in the same field was the ceremonial path by which the King was to pass from his palace to the Parliament House on the morrow. This path was prettily decorated on each side with pillars wreathed with leaves, flowers, and ferns, having long ropes or festoons of the same material from pillar to pillar. Dozens of young

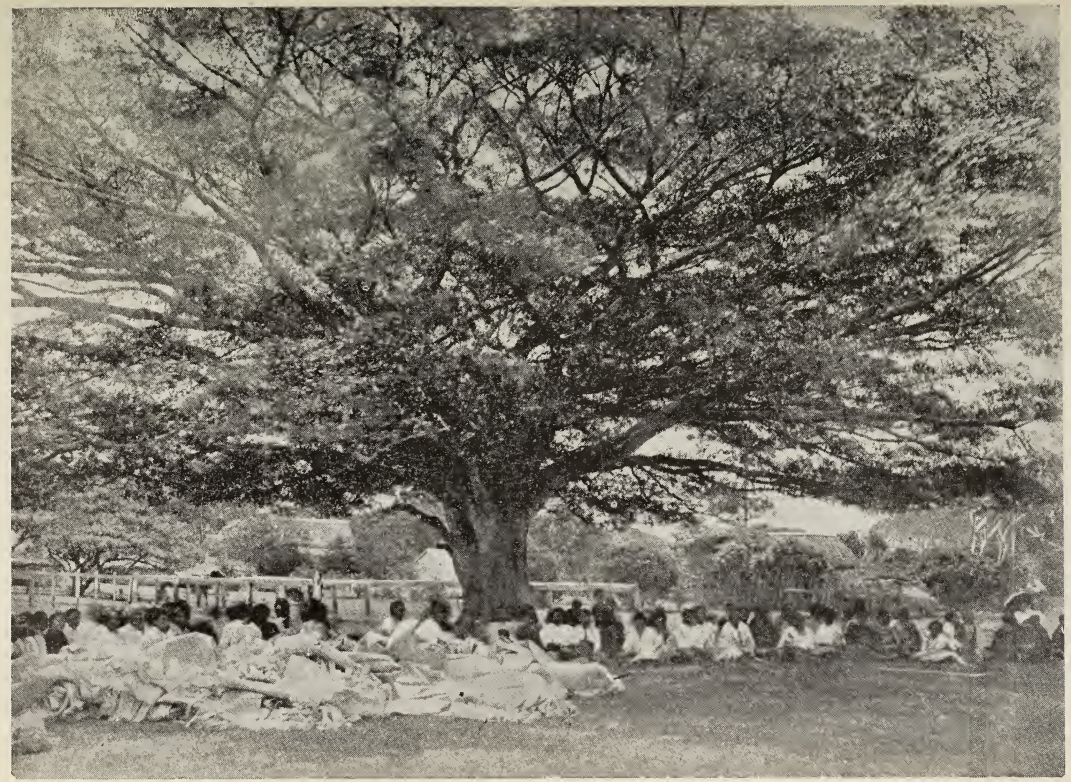
The Palace, Nukualofa.

men from the State College had been busy in bringing in the green stuff for these decorations, and in making the long wreaths or ropes of leaves. There was a triumphal arch at the end nearest the Parliament Buildings. This arch was in the form of a mural gateway, with towers on each side, and was ingeniously constructed of very short pieces of wood nailed closely together in the manner rustic seats are sometimes made. Hundreds of natives had assembled for the sports, and we thus had a grand opportunity of seeing a crowd of them together. They are distinctly a handsome people, but are not like Maoris. They have an Asiatic type of face, sometimes reminding one of Burmese, and sometimes of Arabs of Arabia—not at all of Arabs of Africa. The port and walk in both sexes are superb. They throw the arms and hands behind the hips, the chest is held forward and the head back, the back flat as a board. It is a splendid "strut"; if each of them owned a principality it could not be more dignified and haughty. It would drive a cavalry-man to despair to find his swagger utterly eclipsed here; but one thought with despair of some of our colonial youths, rolling, or hulking, or slouching along, and said, "Oh, for a Tongan to teach our people how to walk!"

The skin of the islanders is nearly the tint of that of the Maori, a little darker than that of the ordinary Samoan. The hands and feet are small, especially those of the women. The dress is not only suitable for the climate, but is becoming and picturesque. It was both for men and women almost invariably snowy white, but girdles and sashes of different coloured silks brightened the crowd. In some cases the girls' dresses were wholly of silk and lace, though of native shape. One lovely combination of purple-silk skirt (of course, the *vala,* or piece of stuff two yards long wound tightly on the hips), with a yellow-silk upper garment, was well worthy notice. They mingled with the white people, although not in the heart-whole way in which we mix with our Maori friends; the very pretty half-caste girls seem the connecting-links. Several of the white ladies wore

the flowing "round-about" of Polynesia, a loose white robe hanging from the neck, but made of costly material. Others adorned quite up-to-date European costumes. The sports consisted of the usual games got up by Europeans: running, bicycling, obstacle-races, wheeling wheelbarrows blindfold, &c. We had received an invitation to be present from the committee, who very kindly and attentively looked after our well-being, giving us afternoon-tea under an immense marquee tent that had been erected on the ground. The King's brass band, neatly clad in uniform, played some very good music during the afternoon. The royal palace stands at one side of the field in which the sports were held; it is a large and handsome house, white picked out with black along beams, &c. The hedges lining the palace walls were aflame with the magnificent scarlet pointsettia flowers (or, rather, bunches of leaves like flowers), quite a foot across, and these made a brilliant fringe to the human crowd. Mr. Seddon was away at the palace during part of the afternoon having audience with the King. It had been hoped that our Premier would address the gathering, but his absence on official business prevented. Thereupon Mr. Leefe, British Consul in Tonga, addressed the assembly, and spoke feelingly as to the celebration of Her Majesty's birthday in these islands, hinting strongly that some great changes for the better might be expected in the near future. Three ringing cheers were given for the Queen, and then three for Mr. Seddon and New Zealand.

After the sports were over we were rejoined by the Premier, and took one of the most exquisite walks conceivable. The way lay past the palace and along by the shore. The sun was setting directly in front; on the right the sea with its "innumerable laughings" of sunlight, on the left the coco-palms and gardens of residents. We were going towards the old native settlement, the true Nukualofa, for the Tongans call the modern town the "Fou" or "New" town. As we strolled along, picking strange and beautiful flowers, or wandering down to the shells and broken coral of the beach, we were joined by two



The Fono Tree, Nukualofa.

or three young natives. The boys went up the trees and got coconuts for us, the girls carried our various treasures. One graceful little lassie of about twelve years of age, with a blue scarf wound daintily about her head and shoulders, and with a very shy sweet voice, quite charmed the ladies of our party; she walked back part of the way with us, helping to carry our collection. They all saluted us in Tongan fashion on leaving. To do this, bring the hand back upwards to about the height of the shoulder, then turn the palm outward and let it remain thus a moment.

Fruit was very cheap and plentiful. Not only were many presents of oranges, bananas, mammy-apples, &c., sent on board, but natives stood around the gangways with long palm-leaf baskets of oranges, &c., for sale. A large kit, containing from six to eight dozen of juicy and delicious oranges could be bought for a shilling, and as the orange is one of the fruits that can be eaten safely in these latitudes they were largely indulged in. There are many tropical fruits in the consumption of which prudence has to be observed, especially at night. The dinner-table in the saloon, which had been bare of flowers for the last few days at sea, turned into a veritable fairy-land. Exquisite waxen blooms (the names of which we did not know), white, pink, and orange, overflowed the vases, while from the electric lamps hung the glory of hibiscus and pointsettia, begonias, croton-leaves, and the coral-plant. A creeper, having a brilliant blue flower, shaped somewhat like that of the foxglove, lent much aid to the decorations.

A ball was to be given in the evening to the white residents of Tonga by a committee of gentlemen who thus honoured Her Majesty's birthday and the hoisting of the British flag. They kindly sent an invitation to the visitors by the "Tutanekai," and all old enough to go attended. It was a very interesting spectacle to New-Zealanders, as although intended to be a *pakeha* gathering the native wives and half-caste daughters of residents also attended. It was warm work dancing in such a climate, but people did not seem to get more heated than in an

ordinary temperate-zone affair. The ladies wore natural flowers on their dresses and in their hair, and no wonder, in a land of such beautiful flowers. The King's band supplied the music, which, lest it should be too loud, was discoursed from an inner room. Among the refreshments handed round was the South Sea Island *kava* (borne in little coconut-shell bowls), made by pouring water on bruised roots of the pepper-tree (*Macropiper methysticum*). All of us tasted it. It is prepared in Tonga by the root being pounded—not chewed by girls, as in Samoa and other places. The taste for appreciating *kava* is certainly acquired ; it seemed to us horrible. We were told that at first it tasted like soapsuds ; this is evidently a libel on good honest soapsuds. It is more like what one would imagine the water would be that had been used in a chemist's shop for washing out a hundred assorted old medicine-bottles. They say that white residents often like it very much ; they are quite welcome to it all. The Maoris have a variety of the *kava* plant (*Piper excelsum*), which they call *kawakawa*, but do not avail themselves of the root to prepare a beverage from it. Good old Maori ! We met one of the race here, a fine-looking and pleasant-spoken man, a Ngapuhi, named Peter Maynard, from the Bay of Islands, who, having long ago settled in Tonga, had married a native of the island. Both he and his wife were kind and attentive to us, and we naturally treated him as one of ourselves—a New-Zealander in foreign lands ; sweet to his ears was the *reo Maori*, heard after years of absence. To return to our ball. Among the dresses worn that attracted admiration were two wholly made of *tapa*, or cloth prepared by beating out with a mallet the inner bark of a certain tree. It is generally called *tapa*, or *kapa*, in Polynesia, although the Tongan name for it is *ngatu*, or, as they write it, *gatu*. The dresses in question were cut like European ball-dresses, but the material gave the appearance of light-brown satin. They were certainly of great elegance, and were a revelation as to the uses to which so simple a material could be put. The dances were, of course, the ordinary European round and square

Dressed to Kill," Tonga.

dances; it was evidently only by strong restraint, in deference to doctor's orders, that the Premier withheld himself from his usual custom of dancing every dance. Before the conclusion of the evening arrived the ceremony of drinking Her Majesty's health was gone through; and this having been duly cheered, it was followed by a toast and address of welcome to Mr. Seddon.

At night a beautiful spectacle was presented by the natives "torch-fishing" on the reef. It looked like some distant illuminated city, except that the blazing lights were all in motion, and in their reflection showed that they were over water. It was, however, to New-Zealanders a unique and pretty sight, enhanced, as some of the fishers drew near, by the view of the naked brown bodies and the movements of the spear-arm under the flaming lights.

Friday morning broke bright and clear, and several of the party were tempted by the translucent water to bathe in the sea, diving from the steamer's bulwarks into the clear depths. At breakfast-time, however, clouds began to gather, and soft showers of rain to fall. This was particularly unfortunate, as it was the day of the opening of Parliament, and the wet threatened to spoil the ceremony.

The following is the text of the card of invitation, with translation :—

Koe Huufi oe Fale Alea. Nukualofa, Me 22, 1890.
Kuo fakagofua.
A Mr. ————.
Oku fakaha i heni e Huufi ae Fale Alea i hono aho 25 o Me, 1900, i hono hogofulu oe houa moe miniti e tolugofulu 10-30 bogibogi bea oku ata be keke mea age ki ai.
Ke ke atu eni ki he Tagata leo mataba.

Ko au D. Bolutele Kaho.

(*Translation.*)

Is hereby permitted Nukualofo, Me 22, 1900.
Mr. ————
To be present at the opening of Parliament on the 25th day of May, 1900, at half-past 10 in the forenoon, and he is free to accept this invitation. *
Give this to the doorkeeper.

Devita Bolutele Kaho.

* This means that it is not a "royal command." One may decline or absent himself.—E.T.

The natives and Europeans crowded into Nukualofa, and our party took its way to the Parliamentary Buildings, for the entry into which invitations had been sent to the "Tutanekai." After the uniformed band, the army (consisting, apparently, of garrison artillery) and the police headed the cortege. The King was dressed in a uniform much embroidered with gold lace, and wore many decorations, apparently of Tongan knighthood. A long crimson-velvet mantle, trimmed with ermine, flowed from his shoulders towards the ground, but its ends were upborne by two pages, dressed in crimson and white, with plumes of crimson and white ostrich feathers in their caps. The procession moved along the way bordered with green boughs and flowers, and under the triumphal arch, mention of which was made in the account of yesterday's proceedings. The college students, dressed in a white uniform, were posted at intervals on each side of the decorated way, and stood at the military salute while the King passed. The King is a very tall and heavy man, but his large size and fine figure enabled him to carry off the honours of the occasion in an imposing way, where a smaller personage would have failed to impress bystanders so much. Mr. Seddon, in the dark-blue and gold uniform of a Privy Councillor, entered the Parliament Buildings just before the King arrived, and he was attended by his daughter, Miss May Seddon, dressed as a lieutenant in the "Khaki Girls Corps" of Wellington. As the King entered the Parliament Buildings the assemblage rose in greeting, and the monarch took his seat on the throne, the great crown of Tonga on a cushion at his right, the Governors of the Haapai and Vavau Islands on a lower step at his left. The Speech from the Throne was delivered in a low and gentle voice, the soft Tongan language lending itself admirably to the slow, dignified utterance. The most important item of the Speech, we were informed, was that in which allusion was made to the "alliance" with Great Britain, for so the compact which Mr Basil Thomson proclaimed as a "Protectorate" was alluded to in the official announcement. A nice compliment was paid to the colony and to

Tomb of King George Tubou I., Tonga.

Mr. Seddon. The king in a passage in the Speech said he thanked the Atua (God) that the Premier of New Zealand was amongst them, which would be for the good of Tonga. The people, who had seated themselves during the reading of the Speech, again rose as the King passed through their ranks on leaving; the procession formed, the band struck up, and the royal train passed on its way back to the palace again. Few of us had ever seen a king "in all his braverie" closely before, and the general verdict was that it was very excellently done. One little incident that occurred will well illustrate the courtesy and politeness of the natives. As the writer was standing in the smart rain falling when the royal procession approached, he was struggling to use at once his kodak and his umbrella. A young Tongan girl, seeing his difficulty, stepped out from the crowd, and, with a gentle "Permit me," took the umbrella and held it over him while he took his views. It is a small matter to record, but I fear that there would be more broad grins and boorish nudges in an English crowd than polite assistance under similar circumstances.

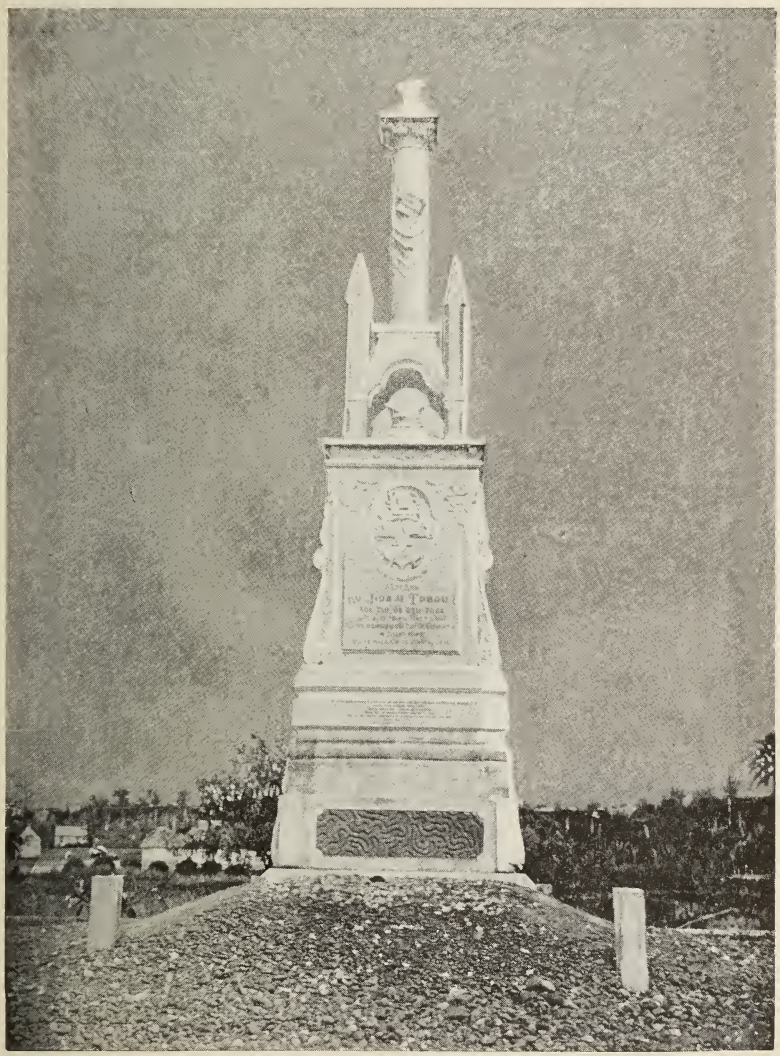
There was great question what to do with the short time left, as it was intended to leave that night or early in the next morning, and there were many things to see. Proposals were made to go and view the great trilithon at Haamonga, and we were very desirous of visiting the tree of the flying-foxes, but there was no time for the journey, as a trip to either of these places took several hours in which to go and return. The tree of the flying-foxes was a great attraction, as hundreds of these curious creatures are to be found hanging therein. They are very destructive to fruit and vegetables, but they are not destroyed, as the old notion of the natives that they are "taboo," or sacred, still has force. There are few buggies in Nukualofa, but those owned by the residents were generously placed at the service of the ladies of our party, who had a very pleasant drive for two or three hours, passing the lagoon, a large sea-inlet, that occupies a large part of the Island of Tongatabu.

To show the abundance of fruit here, an incident

may well be told. A young Tongan was driving Stuart Seddon along a country road when some big pigs barred the path. The Tongan could not leave the reins, so he asked Stuart to pelt the animals away. "There are no stones to pelt them with," said the visitor. "No stones? well, there are plenty of oranges," said Master Tonga; "pelt them off with oranges"—and this was done; but the idea of shying good oranges at pigs took the young New-Zealander's breath away.

Some of the party visited the late King's tomb, and being skirtless succeeded in surmounting the fence and getting a near view. It is an edifice of white stone (imported from Auckland), approached by a flight of steps, with a sculptured lion at one end. It bears the inscription on the top, in Tongan, "Rest in peace." The full epitaph runs, when translated, as follows: "This stone is in memory of George Tubou I., King of the Tongan Group; born 1797, ascended the throne in December, 1845, and departed this life 18th February, 1893. He gathered the different lands, and by his politic wisdom Tonga became a kingdom. He set his people free, and protected his country from danger. He earnestly tried to enlighten his country with religion, and he lies in the gathering-place of all generations. He rests in peace."

After lunch the Premier and his friends called on the Rev. Mr. Watkins, chaplain to the King, who has a beautiful house near the palace. Mrs. Watkins gave us afternoon-tea while Mr. Watkins went to the King to obtain permission to allow us to see the royal chapel and grounds. This permission was accorded, and the church visited. The building is well fitted up, with a sweet-toned organ and the usual ecclesiastical furniture. Separated from the other seats is the raised portion devoted to the King and Queen. Here are placed two state chairs, high backed, with the royal insignia thereon. The King's chair is especially interesting, because, unseen from the front but visible at the back, are some small pieces of dark wood inlaid into the substance of the other timber.



Tomb of King George Tubou I., Tonga

These are portions of a tree under which in the old days the Kings of Tonga were proclaimed or appointed rulers, and its presence in the chair is supposed to give some of the sanctity or historic prestige to the chair that the "stone of Scone" bestows on the Coronation-chair of Great Britain. Most of the visitors seated themselves in turn in the royal chair in order that each might say that he or she had once sat on a throne. The Premier ascended the high pulpit and "view'd the landscape o'er" in a solemn and dignified manner, while one of the visitors played sacred melodies on the organ. An adjournment to the palace was then made, a wish having been expressed that the likeness of the baby-prince should be taken by the photographer of the expedition, who had gone to the palace under that expectation, but he was kept standing on the grass under the watchful eye of the armed sentry, who evidently distrusted the appearance of the artist and doubted the innocence of the box containing the camera. At last we were admitted to the throne-room, and were received by Her Majesty the Queen of Tonga. The Queen is a graceful and elegant young woman, and bore herself during the trying interview with many strangers in a manner that evoked admiration. She was admirably robed in a dark-silk dress of latest European fashion, and she wore the costume as though "to the manner born." The King did not appear, and would not permit the child to be taken into the open air to be photographed. The afternoon sun was getting low, and the interior of the room was too dark to allow of portraits being taken inside the house. It appeared that the infant had not yet been christened, and that some point of Court etiquette would be infringed if the child was to leave the palace before that ceremony had been gone through. The baby, however, was brought down to the room in which we were, and was duly admired and kissed by the lady visitors. It was a good baby, and behaved with great serenity and decorum, never crying when the strange white faces crowded round it. A white baby with a dozen dark people about it would probably have screamed itself hoarse. A request was made to

the Queen that she would allow herself to be photographed, and after some shy doubt she consented if Mrs. Seddon would sit with her. Secular hands were then laid upon two of the great chairs of state, and they were carried outside as seats for the "personages." Here it was noticed that the artistic sense of the photographer overcame his reverence for crowned heads; for, as the young Queen Lavinia placed her foot upon a cushion, the royal slipper was taken hold of and patted into the exact position needed by the exigencies of "posing." The operation being over the chairs were replaced, and the visitors said farewell.

The throne-room, in which we had been received, is a large and imposing chamber, having around its walls some well-executed paintings, principally of distinguished Tongans, but conspicuous among them were the portraits of Queen Victoria and the Prince of Wales. Mr. Watkins acted as interpreter between the native Queen and her guests. A visit was then paid to the State College, presided over by Mr. Roberts. Here were found hundreds of native youths and young men seated in close ranks at their desks. They were examined in music, algebra, astronomy, &c., and gave highly satisfactory answers. The singing was very fine, the deep manly voices pealing out in perfect harmony together. Mr. Seddon addressed the pupils, and stated how pleased he was to see such ability shown, an ability not possible without industry and application on the part of the scholars as well as intelligence and loving effort on that of the teacher. He should be pleased to see if some effort was to be made in regard to technical education as is being done in New Zealand, and should like to have them taught carpentry, boat-building, &c., in addition to their book-studies. It would be well if arrangements could be made for some of them to attend lectures in New Zealand, or come there to study under our experts as to the means of preventing blights on fruit-trees, &c. The pupils sang "God save the Queen," and gave three cheers for Mr. Seddon on leaving.

The Customhouse, Nukualofa.

At 4 in the afternoon Mr. Seddon met the King by appointment to discuss the details of the Postal Convention. The King said that they appeared very reasonable, and that such convention would without doubt be a great convenience to his people in furtherance of trade and business. The people who used it would have to pay both Governments. He asked Mr. Seddon to leave the draft and it should be submitted to Ministers; he would also forward to Mr. Seddon an acknowledgment of the draft, &c.

In the evening an invitation was accepted to a concert by the choir of the King's chapel. On the way a visit was made to a "merry-go-round"—not a very elevating enjoyment among ourselves, except for children, but among these simple natives a sight worth seeing. There, on the great circular procession of wooden horses and gaily-painted cars, swung madly round a shrieking chorus of wildly-excited creatures—sailors from our vessel among them. Black night outside; within, by the glare of torches, flitted the white-robed native girls and white-robed men, the girls with floating garments streaming behind head and body, many of the men white-turbaned—all *bizarre*, grotesque, uncanny, a babel of enjoyment, with the high notes of the music adding to the din of voices. This was a "merry-go-round" indeed, a development as foreign to our eyes as if we had never seen a fair or "sports" in our own country. A walk along grassy lanes to the concert. The King's choir is about a hundred strong, about half being girls and half men. They sang in the middle choir of the palace church, chiefly hymns, all sacred songs. There was no conductor present; the King himself generally acts both as conductor and instructor, but did not present himself on this occasion. The singing was excellent—indeed, there are few European choral societies in which the part-singing could be more perfect, while the musical notes of the natives have a rich *timbre* that the voices of white people never seem to possess. Two of the bass voices were simply magnificent—deep, sonorous, melodious; they had

none of the roughness of the ordinary basso, but were musical in their deeper sounds as the pipe of some sweet and powerful organ. Such voices would be treasures to their possessors if in Europe (if they could bear the climate) ; but, then, the whole choir would fill theatres and concert-halls anywhere. After the natives had finished, the visitors sang "Abide with me" and "Lead, kindly light," not with the idea of rivalling or emulating the choir, but to show that they made acknowledgment by singing in return. Mr. Seddon conveyed his thanks to the native singers through the interpretation of the Rev. Mr. Watkins, and the party, preceded by lantern-bearers, went on their way to the ship. In the meantime a deputation of seven young Tongan girls, with floral head-dresses, conveyed presents of mats, fans, fruit, &c., from Mrs. Baker to Mrs. Seddon and the ladies on board the "Tutanekai." They left their flowers, in graceful courtesy, with one of the male visitors, who had been interested in hearing all their busy little excited tongues talking at once in praise of Princess Ofa, and in depreciation of the present aspect of political affairs, from the feminine point of view.

Saturday, the 26th, broke clear and sunny after a hot restless night, but there was no bathing from the ship's side, as there were rumours of sharks about. Traps and buggies were brought to the root of the causeway, and the ladies started on another driving expedition. It had been intended to leave in the night, but an official invitation being received asking Mr. Seddon to lunch with the King, the departure was delayed for a few hours.

Mr. Tregear went with Maafu to call on the great chief Tugi, of whom mention has before been made as the grandfather of Princess Ofa. He was formerly Speaker of the Tongan Parliament. The old chief received his visitor kindly and courteously, making many inquiries about New Zealand, and particularly about the position of the Maoris under the British flag. It was explained to him that so satisfied were most of the independent native races that but a short time ago fought against us that

Blending the Races, Tonga.

Sikhs, Ghoorkas, Maoris, and others had volunteered by thousands for the war in the Transvaal—the best of proofs of how they had been treated under the flag. Tugi made many inquiries about the position of our Premier, and what kind of relationship his power bore to the royal power as exercised in Tonga. He was assured that it was only through the respect and esteem the majority of New Zealand people bore to the Premier that year after year he was intrusted with the direction of State affairs. It was no question of the influence of chiefs or nobles with us, only the general voice which called on the people's representatives to carry out the measures believed to be for the good of all. Tugi said that he had been very pleased to hear how affairs were managed in the colony, and that Mr. Seddon was going to try to do some practical things for them in the way of trade and postal communication. He asked questions about the visit of Captain Cook to New Zealand, inquired as to the longevity, health, &c., of the Maoris and the hygienic measures adopted for them, and ended by formally presenting Mr. Tregear with a palm-branch strung with pieces of *kava*-root, this being the mark of honour paid to one chief visiting another.* Princess Ofa came into the room and allowed herself to be photographed outside the house, but she was ill—had been suffering from a severe attack of influenza—and looked "drooping." Some of the ladies from the ship visited her later in the day, and she kindly came down to the wharf in the afternoon to say "good-bye," again enduring the infliction of the camera.

The Rev. Mr. Shirley Baker was met while out driving. He seemed in delicate health, but glad to see New-Zealanders, and gave Mr. Tregear some Tongan books lately printed by himself. The vessel was haunted by natives at the gangway selling fruit, shells, coral, &c., though

* Note.—A few days after the "Tutanekai" left Tonga the great chief Tugi died. A strange old Tongan custom was observed at his burial. The vault was covered with an immense slab of coral. Above this was heaped a mound of sand, and in this heap had been buried two chiefs. They were of lesser rank than Tugi, and were not allowed to precede him in the tomb. After his body had been placed in the vault their two skeletons were allowed to follow.

(except the fruit) only in small lots. So plentiful was fruit that even the horses were fed on green bananas.

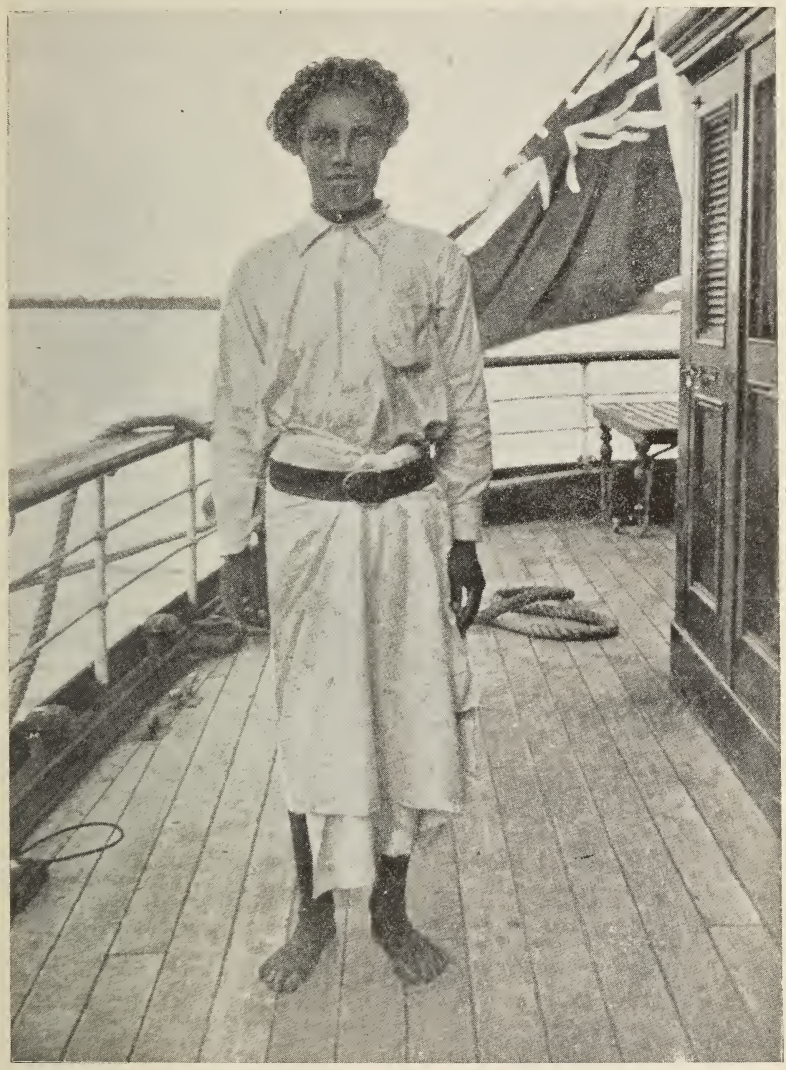
Mr. Seddon proceeded to the palace at noon to lunch with the King, not altogether without qualms of conscience, for a State lunch was hardly likely to be framed on the dietary lines laid down for him by his doctors; however, as it was an exceptional occurrence, the directions of physicians were set aside for once. On arrival at the palace it was found that the band was in full attendance, and the Premier was received by the guard with presented arms. All the Ministers were in the throne-room, together with the Governors of Haapai and Vavau.

The King took Mrs. Seddon to lunch, and his father took in Miss Seddon, Mrs. and Miss Seddon being the only ladies present; our Premier and the Premier of Tonga walked in together.

The King evidently has a good *chef*, and luncheon was served in up-to-date European style: six courses, different kinds of wines, champagne, &c., magnificent silver and appointments. The usual course of the *menu* was varied by cheese being served before the sweets, but the plum-pudding (traditionally dear to Englishmen) was an object-lesson to other cooks. Mr. Seddon proposed in a few appropriate words the King's health, and adjournment was then made to the throne-room, where the King presented his New Zealand guests with photographs of himself and the Queen.

He also presented a very singular relic to Mr. Seddon —namely, a small piece of red cloth which had been left in Tonga by Captain Cook in barter for native goods, and this piece of cloth had been kept sacred and handed down through several generations.

In the course of a general conversation Mr. Seddon suggested alterations in respect to the curriculum of the College. He considered that there was too much algebra, Euclid, navigation, &c., for native youths, however clever. If technical classes for house-building, boat-building, &c., could be started, there would be some practical outcome of the teaching, or if entomology could be studied from its economic side in reducing insect-pests on



Maafu, a Prince of Tonga.

fruit, &c., it would be of great assistance. The King asked whether New Zealand could not help him in this, and was answered that reports would be sent to him from New Zealand, and that proposals would be considered (if sent) as to receiving some Tongans as students, who could on their return teach their own people. The Premier then expressed the hope that the King would pay New Zealand a visit before long. The King said that he would not forget, and that he had very pleasant memories of Auckland, and of his old master, Dr. McArthur. He was afraid, however, that he had been, like Europeans, fonder of football than of his lessons when at school. Farewells were then spoken, and the guests left for the steamer.

Mr. Seddon during his stay at Tonga made particular inquiries into the state of the Government and administration, and came to the conclusion that the natives should be left as much as possible to govern themselves, but there should be an outside executive of trained Europeans intrusted with the receipt of revenue and the expenditure of public moneys. Such matters are not understood by the natives, and the present result is that all kinds of rumours are afloat as to shortages and leakages in the Treasury. It is probable that much of this proceeds from want of system, bad book-keeping, and expenditure without entry.

The general feeling in Tonga for some time has been that Great Britain should arrange terms with the King, Ministry, and natives, and follow up the Protectorate with annexation. Regular incomes given to the King and the leading chiefs, with rights to their lands assured to the natives, and a form of local self-government determined on, would smooth the way and bring about unanimity in favour of British possession. It is generally believed that, for some time previous to the British protectorate being arranged by Mr. Basil Thompson, there had been some coquetting with a great European Power with a view of annexation or a protectorate; in fact, the "Tutanekai" was mistaken at first for the French man-

of-war that was expected to arrive at Nukualofa. No one here appreciates the suggestion that the Tongan Group should be annexed to Fiji, and governed from thence. Not only is Fiji a Crown colony, and as such looked upon with disfavour, but for centuries the Tongans have warred against Fiji, and there are long ancestral memories of strife and bloodshed between the two races. The Tongan and Fijian "don't play in the same back-yard"; and to tell a Tongan that he will be governed from Fiji is like holding a red rag to a bull. Most of the Europeans desired annexation to New Zealand, but it is only reasonable and just that the natives and their rulers should have a say as to how they are to be governed.

One of the matters bitterly complained of was the high charges for freight and fares by the Union Company's steamers. Business people say that these excessive charges have driven the trade away from Auckland to Sydney. The latter port has at present a strong advantage in being a free-trade port. On the other hand, Auckland is nearer, and, if prices are higher, qualities are better. Even as it is, the natives insist upon having some New Zealand goods, such as meats and biscuits, at any cost. Some unscrupulous persons have tried to counterfeit the Auckland brands of meat, but the natives instantly detected the imposition, and insisted on the imitation article being rejected. New Zealand flour is also a favourite; it is said to be newer, and to have more body than the Australian. Mr. Seddon made arrangements to obtain complete returns of the exports and imports of the Tonga Islands, the class of goods inquired for, values, and the duties paid, together with freights and charges. If improved means of communication are established, reduced freights and charges made, and if the merchants of Auckland look properly after their business, it may be possible for New-Zealanders to regain part of the lost trade.

There are many New-Zealanders settled in Tonga, and holding good positions there. Among these we met Mr. Whitcombe, formerly Crown Lands Commissioner in

The College Band going to the opening of Parliament, Tonga.

Taranaki, who did us many kindly offices. One of our old settlers, writing to Mr. Seddon, said that "every flag was to be found in Tonga except the New Zealand flag; please send one along."

As to Tongan revenue and expenditure, it is quite evident that taxation is very heavy; but it would be considerably reduced if the plan above sketched could be carried out—viz., that of a system of competent officials dealing with accounts. So-much money should be allotted for native affairs, so-much for public works, and so on; three or four reliable European officers could carry out the system satisfactorily. The natives are well-behaved, and, thanks to the Shirley Baker regulations, their moral tone is higher than that in our boasted civilisation. Why they should keep sixty policemen in the capital it is hard to say, unless it is to carry out the law against flirting. The penalty for flirting is high. A curious *régime* is this that controls the loves of youth in Tonga. Groups of young people under proper chaperonage pay visits from village to village, and love-making under recognised surveillance is allowed. So also in the villages there are meeting-houses where the young of both sexes meet and tell their tales of love; but it is all done under the stern and watchful eyes of elderly matrons, who rigidly carry out the rules laid down by the missionary, but whose memories carry them back to a time when the *valavala* was unknown, when they met in the forest glade, and the birds alone were the chaperones. If "a laddie meets a lassie comin' thro' the rye" the lassie has good reason to cry, if three months' hard labour can be called a reason; but such is the inexorable law in Tonga. Room here for removal of this women's disability. Why should the swain escape? Unlike Adam of old, he is not even called upon to explain. No standing about at village stiles, or loitering along by moonlight; the stern shadow of the policeman, guardian here of morals as well as crime, is over all. We have known coquettes of British birth who, had they been born in Tonga, would have earned years of punishment if the sentences were not concurrent.

The remaining hours in Nukualofa grew few; our friends, many and warm considering the short time in which friendship had to grow, gathered to the wharf, and only thanks remained to be expressed. The private names cannot all be given, but to Mr. Delambert, Commissioner of Customs, and to Mr. Roberts, junr., of the Postal Department, gratitude especially was expressed for kindness far outside official duties. Saluted by dipping flags and waving handkerchiefs, the "Tutanekai" moved seaward at about 3.30 in the afternoon, and our stay in the lovely island among the charming people was over. The old pilot went up into the rigging to "con" the steamer out through the reefs, and soon the white buildings were lost as our vessel threaded the intricate way till her nose dipped in the rough waves of the outer sea. We had to get more coal before we could run eastward to Rarotonga; it was doubtful if it was to be procured at Tahiti, so in Fiji alone was our hope. Therefore, "Westward Ho!" for Suva.

Sunday 27th.—All the ladies unable to attend the table, no appetite—a rough sea, and the wind ahead as usual. "Oh, Pacific Ocean, what crimes are committed in thy name!" In the morning we passed close to Turtle Island, and there saw for the first time the atoll formation. A line of breakers, intensely white, divided the tumbling indigo-coloured waves from a vivid green sheet of still water inside the lagoon. The scale is grander than the eye of imagination pictures beforehand. One is apt to fancy the atoll reef as a fairy-ring out in the open sea; but one has to see the great reef, stretching for miles in its mighty circle of breaking waves, to feel its grandeur as well as its beauty. In the afternoon we passed Totoya and Matuku Islands—solemn masses of land, lonely among the desolate seas.

Arrival at Suva.

Monday 28th.—On awaking this morning we found ourselves sliding along a lovely coast. On the port bow rose great peaked mountains, somewhat like those of the

The Rev. Mr. Watkins and Party at the King's Chapel, Tonga.

southern New Zealand Sounds, but the pinnacles and clefted heights were more fantastic than ours. On a larger scale it was like the northern side (Manaia) of Whangarei Heads. Green, dense vivid green, clothed the mountains and rolling hills at their base. These were the hills of Suva, in Fiji. We glided along the glassy water to where white houses glittered through the coco-palms along the shore. A boat pushed off, flying a red flag marked "H.M.," the mystic letters denoting the Harbourmaster. His boat was manned by herculean Fijians naked to the waist, their waistcloths (*lavalava*) bearing the monogram of the "broad arrow." We were afterwards informed that these were prisoners on good behaviour. They seemed peculiar to us, their huge prize-fighter-like muscles and wildly frizzed hair making them appear strange, after leaving our stately-treading Tongan friends. One soon got used to them, however, and doubtless would soon learn to like them. There are several types of Fijians. The chiefs and many of the natives are equal in stature, physique, and looks to the Maoris, and their bearing is dignified, lofty, and kindly, others again are not unlike the negroes, but are good workers. Following the Harbourmaster came the Health Officer, with the "H.O." flag flying from his boat, which was manned by police. These were clothed in dark-blue uniform coat and a blue *lavalava*, the outer edge of which was cut into points like the teeth of a saw.

The Health Officer at first was shy of allowing us to come near the wharf, news having been received through the French at Noumea, New Caledonia, that the plague was in New Zealand. However, after colloquy with our own medico, Dr. Teare, and on our producing printed evidence that the suspected case of plague in Auckland had turned out to be blood poisoning, we were allowed to come up to within 4 ft. of the wharf, tin shields being put over the hawsers to prevent any rats from landing from our vessel. At nightfall we were ordered to withdraw into the stream, and we lay there at anchor, warping up to the wharf again in the morning.

Suva, even from the wharf, was evidently not only a pretty but a busy place, the wharf being crowded with all nationalities. White-clad, hurried down the lean Englishmen and burly German traders of the tropics. The swarthy Fijian looked quite brown beside the intense blackness of the Solomon Islander, the yellow Chinaman shouldered the Hindoo, the Samoan elbowed the Gilbert Islander. Two Fijians, their heads plastered white with lime, stood like statues together, solemnly staring at the strangers. Soon the passengers strolled ashore, eager to explore the new place, most of them finding their way to the shops of island curios which Suva has prepared for its tourist visitors. Mr., Mrs., and Miss Seddon went to pay a visit to Government House, while the others sought their own ways of amusing themselves.

Those who left the town and strolled along the coast road found it was very hot, a blazing sun overhead, but there were avenues of trees and clumps of bush where shade and rest were to be obtained. Smoke drifted across the road from clearings being made in the undergrowth, and on inquiring of some Fijians whether they were clearing the ground for crops, the answer was "No," it was the fear of the plague that was making them clear away the weeds and rubbish, which might harbour rats. Along the roads many people were passing, but there were more Samoans than Fijians, more Indian coolies than either. The Samoans have left (and are leaving) Samoa in numbers, not appreciating German rule, now that England has relinquished her claim over Samoa. Poor creatures, lovers of their own beautiful islands, as they are, to them the green hills and fertile valleys of Fiji are only a land of exile. By the waters of Suva they sat down and wept, when they remembered Upolu and Savaii: "Samoa ē, e le galo atu" ("O Samoa, lost, far away") as they sang in the sweet little song we had heard in Tonga. The Indians are of another type, dusky-black, thin to emaciation, clothed in Oriental garb; they seem to be of different ranks and positions. Here one would see a group in which parents and children

Some Young Ladies of Tonga.

were mere bags of bones, there a woman in her white muslin wrapper showed armlets innumerable, jewelled nose-ring, earrings, anklets, all of silver, clicking and ringing as she moved along.

Bordering the roads were great masses of shrubs bearing the double crimson hibiscus blossom, every flower as large as a truss of pelargonium blooms at a flower show. The varieties of the single hibiscus were more diverse than in Tonga. One was of a very pale lemon colour, one of rich pink, one of pale pink, and another of plum colour. Thickets and clumps of bamboo appeared here and there, the graceful feathery stems and leaves waving and rustling gently. All the road was "foreign"—never for a moment could one think under those swaying palm trees and among the gorgeous flowers that he was in "the Britain of the South." After visiting the barracks of the police, clean, roomy dwellings, with Martini-Henry rifles racked along the walls, on the return walk the Botanical Gardens were entered. These gardens are still in course of construction, but they contain some beautiful trees already. The sago-palms were very handsome, and some of the native trees, such as the bread-fruit, vied with their introduced brothers in stateliness. In full bearing was the cocoa-bean, with its large purple pods in abundance, and the coffee-plant bore its red berries (somewhat like those of the wild briar, but clustering closely along the branch) in profusion. Beautiful trailing plants were on every side, but in the fern-house were no specimens of native ferns, only the introduced varieties.

Both the Suva and Fiji Clubs were so courteous as to put the men visitors' names on their honorary list. The "Tutanekai" was expected to sail in the evening of the day she arrived, but the Mayor and townspeople organized a banquet for the same night, a kindness which with very short notice must in such a climate have taxed their energies to the utmost.

In the afternoon the Premier and most of the party drove round the environs of Suva. Some of us visited

the gaol, the Government Buildings, the tomb of the late King Thakombau, and other objects of interest in the town. During the Premier's absence from the ship Sir George and Lady O'Brien called on board the "Tutanekai." Sir George is Governor of the Fijian Islands and Lord High Commissioner of the Western Pacific. Formerly he was Governor of Newfoundland.

In the evening most of the men of the party attended the banquet given to the Premier by the Mayor and citizens of Suva. Mr. F. E. Riemenschneider, Warden (Mayor) of the town, was in the chair, the Hon. W. Burton, manager of the Bank of New Zealand, in the vice-chair. Among others present were the Hon. C. H. H. Irvine, Acting Attorney-General, the Hon. W. Sutherland, Assistant Colonial Secretary, Mr. A. Duncan, manager, Union Steamship Company, Mr. J. K. M. Ross, Collector of Customs, and other prominent officials and citizens. The tables were beautifully decorated with tropical fruit and flowers, the glow of splendid colour being especially grateful to the New-Zealanders' eyes. When the toast of the evening was proposed, mention was made of the few short hours in which the affair was got up, and that excuse was to be made on that account if any shortcomings were perceptible. The Warden stated in the course of his remarks that as the Australian Colonies were federating it would be a good thing if New Zealand and Fiji were brought into closer touch. Being directly under the Home Government might be considered by some a great thing; but to people in Britain Fiji seemed a far-away place, unworthy of much trouble, and was treated accordingly, so that he should be glad to see it annexed to New Zealand. Mr. Seddon, in a humorous and well-received speech,* said how pleased and touched he had been with his reception, and amazed at the rapidity with which the banquet had been prepared. He had altered his mind as to leaving at 7 o'clock the next morning, and intended to go and see the Rewa River, the sugar-works, and the beautiful adjacent country of

* See Appendix B.

Saluting the British Flag on Queen's Birthday, Tonga.

which he had heard so much. He then spoke of the war in South Africa, and the way in which both British and colonial troops had upheld the honour of the flag. As a result he looked forward at no distant date to representatives of the colonies having seats both in the House of Commons and the House of Lords. He hoped to see a Federation of the Islands, and, as the Cook Group had been saved from foreign hands, so also should the others. Much of his own success in public and private life had been owing to his good wife, and when the time came that they were free to make their own laws for Fiji he hoped that one would be that to be unmarried should be a disqualification for Premier or Minister. As to commerce, he was greatly troubled to find the high rates of passage and freight to Fiji and Tonga now prevailing. This state of things he meant to alter. Although the Union Steamship Company had rendered great services to New Zealand, still there should be a maximum fixed for freights and passages, and a regular time-table. He should go back with the idea that there was no medicine like coming to Tonga and Fiji, and with a most favourable impression of the Islands and of the generous hospitality he and his friends had received. Many other healths were proposed, and the enthusiasm culminated about midnight in the horses being taken out of Mr. Seddon's carriage and the vehicle drawn to the wharf by a crowd of cheering and excited admirers. For hours after, the sound of singing and cheers from the shore showed that Suva was "having a night of it," and that there were places outside New Zealand where Britishers could lustily sing "We won't go home till morning till daylight doth appear."

Rewa River.

About nine next morning (29th) a start for the Rewa River was effected in the Fijian Government launch "Adi Cakobau" (pronounced "Andi Thakombau"). We started across the fine harbour where the waters stretched from the shores of Suva to where the islands of Nukulau and Nukulevu lay like green mounds on a mirror. As

we skimmed across the Laucala (Lauthala) Bay, the sea was choppy, and the launch took in the water very freely over bow and side, but we soon reached the curious little branchlet of the harbour by which entrance into the Rewa was gained, and by passing through which a long detour to gain the river mouth was avoided. At about ten miles from Suva we entered this narrow natural canal, in some places not 30 ft. wide. It was bordered with a dense growth of young mangroves; this did not resemble in the least the tree manawa (*Avicennia officinalis*), which we know in New Zealand as the mangrove. It was much more like the Coprosma shrub we call "karamu." The little steamer twisted, turned, and sounded its whistle as it ran along the gutter, for this was no place for two vessels to meet each other in.

At last we broke out into the Rewa, a most magnificent river, wider than the New Zealand Thames where it runs into the Hauraki Gulf, and finer than the Waikato at Mercer, but it is an estuary. It was more picturesque too, than our own waters, on account of the graceful coco-palms here and there along the banks; but as we steamed up stream we left the palms behind, and found the shores planted with sugar-cane in great profusion, with here and there a field of rice, *ndalo* (taro, *Caladium esculentum*), and tapioca. There was only one large plantation of bananas. We halted at a Catholic mission-station named Nailili, and were kindly received by the two sisters in charge, and by Father Rougier, the principal priest.

We then proceeded further up the river about ten miles (passing the sugar-works) and reached a native village, Navuso. Ratu Beni, the chief, welcomed us heartily, and asked us to visit his house. This was a very fine specimen of old Fijian architecture, spacious and lofty, with a high-pitched roof, such as we reserve for churches. The steps consisted of a sloping log, deeply notched. The interior walls were draped with *tapa* and with beautifully-woven mats having patterned borders. The posts supporting the roof were as thick as the lower masts of a large ship,

King George going to the opening of the Tongan Parliament.

and the vast height of the roof was lost in the gloom, there being little light admitted. Immense sleeping-mats in piles covered the floor, and these mats were laid on some elastic material or foundation, so that it felt as if one were walking on spring mattresses.

The chief's wife was an unusually handsome and graceful young woman. Her name was Adi Cakobau (the steam-launch we were in was named after her), and she is a niece of the late king Thakombau, or Cakobau, as the Fijians write it. Provisions supplied by our kind hosts of the Government were brought in from the steamer to the house, and the cold lunch of turkeys, fowls, hams, wine, beer, &c., was supplemented by native delicacies provided by Ratu Beni. We were waited on by four or five Fijian girls dressed in white garments, who were very kind and attentive, but rather shy and self-conscious.

The yams, *ndalo*, &c., were set on green banana-leaves that looked like large leaves of rhubarb, but of a brighter and glossier green. One bundle of leaves enclosed a native pudding, or rather collection of little puddings, looking like dumpy sausages covered with sugar; they were rather nice, though very rich, somewhat resembling "Turkish delight." Afterwards, we were taken round the native settlement, passing to it over a bridge made from a single tree, but the ticklish crossing-place was made more secure by a kind of outrigger and hand-rail on each side.

There were a great many women about the native houses, but most of the men were away at work. The inside of the houses are made of woven mats, the outside of little branches with their leaves; the branches are fastened head downwards in a thatch which looks exceedingly rough, but which sheds the rain fairly well. Two sitting dances (*meke*) were performed: one by boys, the other by girls; but time was pressing, and the end of the performance could not be waited for.

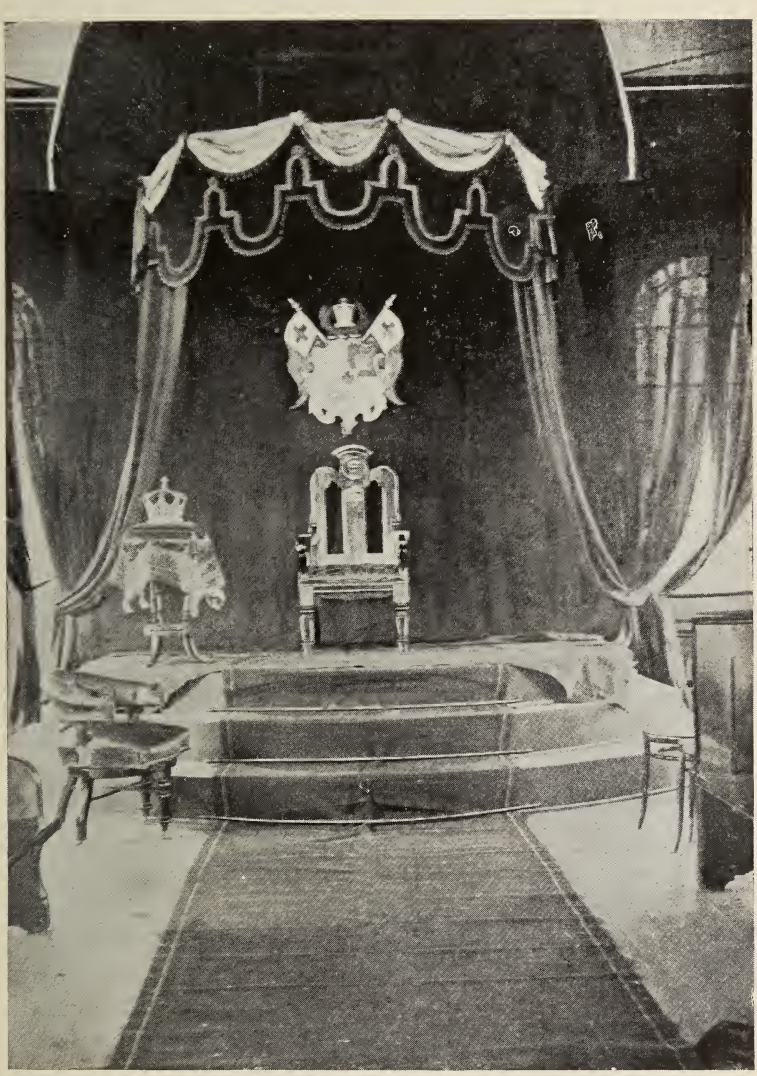
Re-embarking, we went down the river to the sugar-works at Nandrosi. The mills are not crushing canes at present, but the fine machinery and huge apparatus were

very interesting to see; and their purpose was explained to us by the general manager of the company in Fiji, Mr. Gemmel Smith. Rum was being made, and was boiling in huge vats, to look into which a ladder had to be ascended. The rum was prepared under bond, so the place was jealously guarded, the doors being locked and unlocked as the party passed through the grated doorways. Outside, at the company's wharf, lay moored forty iron barges; each of these had cost £1,000. In spite of the immense outlay, this Sugar Company pays 10 per cent. per annum to its shareholders, besides forming large reserve funds.

Nailili Mission-station.

The little steamer carrying us then went its way, but on arriving again opposite the mission-station, we found the place *en fete* in honour of Mr. Seddon. Flags were flying everywhere and a band playing. We were invited to land, and were formally received by the Brothers and Sisters. The men were Marist Brothers, the Sisters belonging to the "Sacred Heart." On our entering the large building in which the natives live, we were first taken up to the dormitory, in which dozens of single beds covered with clean mats were arranged in three rows. Here a lady of the party, who tested the springiness of a bed by sitting down on it, was so unfortunate (being a heavy weight), as to break through the coir-netting on which the beds were placed, and remained helpless within the frame of the bedstead till assisted by spectators, almost as helpless with laughter. Adjourning to the lower hall a unique spectacle presented itself. The Fijians, in large numbers, filled the body of the hall; before them was the brass band, the instruments being all played by natives. In front of the band stood a standard-bearer, holding a Union Jack wreathed with flowers.

The bands struck up a loud and martial air as the Premier entered. The guests were invited to be seated, and were offered tea, coffee, wine, cakes, &c., and when this was over the curtains at the back of the refreshment table



The Throne-room, Tonga.

were withdrawn, dramatically revealing a small theatrical stage, on which were grouped Fijian girls dressed in white muslin uniforms. These girls performed a pretty little operetta, called "Naming the Flowers." It was played by one singer stepping to the front and singing a solo, as she walked up and down before the others. In this she took the part of some named flower—the Lily, for instance—and her verse of song would relate to the purity, elegance, &c., of that flower. When she had finished, the whole chorus of girl-flowers would break into song in praise of the Lily. After this the Rose stepped forward, was chorused, and so on, till all had sung and the wreath was completed. The singing was plaintive and sweet; the musical effect won much praise. It was followed by a hymn sung by the men and accompanied by the band. The good music of the band deserves especial mention, because the players had only received the instruments some two months before, and therefore not only is credit due to Brother Macarius, their teacher, but an extraordinary aptitude for musical education must dwell within these dusky bodies. Indeed, so sweet are the voices, and so strong the taste for music, that it will not be a wonderful thing should the home of harmony some day be found to be in the remnant of oceanic people.

Father Rougier explained that he had been told that to-day was the birthday of the Premier's eldest son, who was with the army in Africa. So these little festivities had been got up in honour of the birthday. He wished Mr. Seddon and his friends all good things possible. Mr. Seddon and many of his party were deeply touched by this spontaneous and thoughtful exhibition of sympathy and kindness. The Premier thanked them in very heartfelt and moved accents for the attention shown that afternoon to himself and his son. There could be, he said, no nobler work done than that being carried on by the mission—the endeavour to educate and civilise the people of a lower race. He would convey to the people of New Zealand the assurances of friendship given to him that day, and he was sure the citizens of the colony would not forget the

generous treatment their representative had received. Two bouquets were then presented to Mr. and Mrs. Seddon, one especially for Lieutenant Seddon, and bearing in miniature the flags of Great Britain and New Zealand.

The boys (grown-up boys, many of them) then began a game of football for our amusement, but the angry whistle of the steamer kept telling us that we must not dally too long and lose the tide; so, sauntering through the garden by the river—a garden in which the English rose tried hard to flourish by the side of the frangipanni and the gardenia—we went on board the launch, pursued by cheers which were replied to by counter-cheers. As we moved off into the stream the engines were stopped, and, as the launch floated off, its passengers unitedly sang a hymn of farewell in low tones which sounded sadly and sweetly across the great river. Kind, generous people, French in speech, and of another creed than ours, your wide sympathy reached beyond nationality or religious dogma, and touched our hearts beyond expression. May the gentle, loving hearts that minister at Nailili prosper, and find happiness and peace. God bless them!

Away down the river, past palm, and rice, and sugar-cane, through the narrow mangrove-clad channel, out to the bay, racing for the "Tutanekai." Just at dark the steamer, brilliant with her electric lights, was reached. The Hon. W. Sutherland, Hon. W. Burton, A. Duncan, R. S. D. Rankine, and others—who had conducted the picnic and given us their kindly attentions—having come on board, we drank their healths "with three times three," and a pleasant day had ended for us. The Premier, however, with Mrs. and Miss Seddon, went to dinner at Government House, to meet a party including Sir George O'Brien (the Governor), Miss O'Brien (the Governor's sister), Sir H. Berkeley (the Chief Justice), Lady Berkeley, Colonel Frances, Mrs. Frances, and Mr. Rankin, A.D.C.

On Wednesday, the 30th May, we left Suva at 6 a.m. In a few hours we were close to the wildly broken and indented mountains that form the most noticeable part of one's impressions of the great Island of Ovalau.

Arrival at Levuka.

About 10 a.m. we rounded a point and drew alongside the wharf at Levuka. It was formerly the capital of Fiji, but Suva has shorn it of its governmental glories, and it has now all the cheerful appearance of a place that has had a slight downward tendency. The enterprising spirits there located have checked the run, and ere long it will go ahead, and on a firmer and self-dependent foundation. A more beautifully situated place, from the artistic point of view, it would be difficult to find. The people that are in Levuka were so kind that one cannot help wishing them more trade, a better outlook, and the best of luck commercially, and in every other way. Some of the residents came down to the wharf on our arrival and asked Mr. Seddon to receive a deputation. To this he consented, and at noon the Warden of Levuka with a deputation of citizens presented an address, which offered the Premier welcome to the old capital of Fiji in the following words :—

Dear Sir,— Levuka, 30th May, 1900.

We, the Warden and members of the Town Board of Levuka, as representing the inhabitants of the old capital of Fiji, desire to accord you a hearty welcome on this your first visit to our colony.

We regret your stay amongst us is of so short a duration that we are precluded from showing you that attention which the high office you hold as the Premier of a colony with which we have been closely connected commercially for many years would lead us to desire.

We congratulate you on the foremost rank the colony you represent has taken in sending the magnificent help to our beloved Queen to strengthen her arms in South Africa, and to uphold the integrity of the Empire of which we have the honour to form a small part.

We feel proud to recognise your readiness to throw your personal influence into the movement, and we congratulate you on the fact that the New Zealand troops have shown such pluck and steadiness under fire as to draw forth the highest praise from those in command. Their behaviour has reflected the greatest credit on the Government of New Zealand, of which you are the leading member; and we are rejoiced that the men selected have proved themselves so worthy of the colony and of the stock from which they have sprung.

Let us hope that the help rendered by the New Zealand people, and those also of Australia and Canada, may produce the happiest results in bringing about a successful issue to the war, and help to consolidate and secure the Empire of our beloved Queen.

We trust this will not be the only occasion we may have of wel-

coming you to Levuka, and we deem it a privilege to present this expression of our esteem to one who has done so much in bringing New Zealand to the front, and making for her a name that history may be proud to record.

We are, &c.,
W. T. Solomon, Warden.
Lyon Wilson, Town Clerk.

The Right Hon. Richard Seddon, P.C.

Mr. Seddon replied, thanking the Warden and residents of Levuka for the honour of the address. In reference to the war in South Africa he was specially interested, his eldest son being there, while Fiji was represented by the son of the Chief Justice. Some of us were in "the sere and yellow leaf," and therefore unable to take any active part, but our hearts were as much in the struggle as those of younger men. The British army was as effective, and "Tommy Atkins" as good a fighting man as ever. They had done their share in New Zealand by sending some 1,760 men from their little colony, but they could have sent eight thousand if required. The compliment paid was not to himself personally, but to the colony which he represented. The people of New Zealand took a deep interest in the Island question, and he would convey to them the wishes of the good people of Levuka, many of whom were New-Zealanders. The deputation then withdrew.

In the afternoon Mr. Seddon and party inspected the school conducted by Mr. Jones, late school teacher, Auckland, and approval was won both for scholars and master by the ability displayed. One of our number nearly got into trouble by wishing to give a drink of beer to an old native who had carried his coat and camera. He was informed that by so doing he was liable to a fine of £50. In the evening Mr. and Mrs. Seddon and Mr. and Mrs. F. Dyer dined with Mr. F. R. S. Daxendale, the Resident Magistrate, Trust Commissioner, &c., of Levuka; afterwards proceeding to a *meke* (the Fijian word for "dance"), given by the Samoans in Levuka. All the visitors by the "Tutanekai" attended, and the white residents of Levuka also, while hundreds of Samoans formed a background for the *fête;* native Fijians, however, were few.

The scene was of an unusual character, a long double row of chairs being arranged on a lawn near the centre of the town. "Flares" and lamps were arranged so as to complete the other part of the semicircle, and as footlights, making an oasis of brilliance in the intense darkness of the night. Many performers entered; some of these, not being specially or over-dressed, formed a sitting rear-rank, but also played the part of a chorus, their voices and hand-clappings greatly aiding the singing. Then entered six performers, the men in full Samoan dress or undress. The upper part of the body was naked and glistening with cocoanut oil, the lower half in kilt and decorations of native production. The four women had Samoan dresses, but bodices of some red stuff, probably in deference to the modesty of white lady visitors. A central space was left during the first two or three songs for the *Taupo* or tribal virgin, a young girl who was queen of the dance. She entered amid many plaudits, dressed in a bodice like that of a European lady's ball-dress, but with a huge petticoat or skirt looking like a rough thatch of native ribbons. Arms, bosom, and skirt were all shining with oil. She is a very handsome girl with a fine figure; a princess by birth, being sister of the Malietoa of Samoa.

The singing commenced with a melodious chant, far more like a European song than is the Maori *haka*, but it soon broke into the rapid swayings of body and hands which mark the New Zealand dance. After several songs sung in a sitting position, the *Taupo* stood up and danced an elegant and clever step-dance, the motions of which, together with the music and rhythmical accompaniment of sharp hand-clappings, made one's own hands and feet irresistibly move in sympathy. After this came some grotesque exhibitions. The side dancers moved out, and danced backwards and forwards to the *Taupo* who turned alternately to one and the other as they bowed and swerved and sidled, somewhat as in the cachuca, but with far more rapid steps. The nimble feet of the princess

twinkled and flashed with incessant movement, and, to those whose ideas of the native dance had been confined to that of the Maori, this new combination of posture-dancing and the ballet was full of interest. There were some ludicrous movements and jerkings of the body by the outside dancers (the "clowns") in the manner called by the French "*danse au ventre,*" and it produced much laughter among the natives. After this followed a burlesque cricket-match to song and music, a very amusing affair, the high leaps of the batsman (who carried a very crooked stick of bamboo as a bat) were most remarkable. With an exaggerated air of expectancy he stood at the "wicket," and then jumped about 6 ft. in the air as the ball, a rolled-up scarf, flew underneath him. At the end came the sweet and plaintive Samoan song, "Farewell to Samoa," which we had heard and loved in Tonga. The chorus —

Oh, I will never forget you –
La—
Samoa ē, e le galo atu.

will linger in the minds of the "Tutanekai" party all their lives. Mr. Seddon rose and thanked the Princess and the performers on the part of the visitors, and introduced some of the guests to the *Taupo,* who speaks English and Fijian as well as Samoan. The Premier and others were asked to supper after the *meke,* and the Princess again played and sang for their amusement. As we could not visit Samoa, it was a great pleasure to see so many Samoans together, and witness an entertainment which we might not have seen even if we had gone to Samoa itself. A great mixture of Polynesians was present, and among those singing in the chorus were people from Rotuma, Fotuna, Rarotonga, &c., although their nationality was not easily discernible.

Thursday, 31st May.—Left Levuka about daybreak, with a calm sea and bright sunshine. The ladies, however, as is not unusual at sea, kept to their berths. We passed Thithia Island about two in the afternoon. It is about nine miles long, with groves of coconuts along the shore,

The Keepers of Order, Tonga

but is volcanic in formation, and rises to a height of about 400 ft. We passed close enough to be able to see natives on the beach. Mango and Naiau Islands were also in view. Wind ahead as usual.

Friday, 31st May.—Passed Vavau, the most northerly of the Tongan Islands, at dusk in the evening, a volcanic island, smoking away to the northward. Beautiful moon and stars. The dates have got mixed up again here. Is it Friday, 1st June?

Arrival at Niue, or Savage Island.

We arrived at Niue (Savage Island) about 4.30 in the afternoon. For hours the great island had been drawing its length out longer and longer against the horizon, till we saw the unbroken line of cliffs against which for ever, night and day, summer and winter, the waves leap and break in foam. The landing promised to be both difficult and dangerous, and as we drew near to Alofi, a village on the western shore, there seemed little temptation to strangers on that forbidding and inhospitable coast. How happily afterwards were we undeceived! The island lay before us like a long, low, green mound or ridge in the sea, without a hill to break the skyline, for it is a rounded mass of upheaved coral. Soon a dozen rough outriggered canoes surrounded the ship, each manned by a single occupant, and apparently only intended for a single person, a veritable "sulky," but each was made like a "Rob Roy" —that is to say, bow and stern were covered in, and the occupant sat in a central hole, just as an Esquimaux sits in his *kajak*. Then a larger canoe put off, containing a white man and two or three natives. Our visitor was Mr. Pierce, a resident trader, who acts not only as Justice of the Peace, but as Health Officer, Harbourmaster (this must be a sinecure, as there is not a harbour), &c. He invited us ashore, and, after the boats had been lowered, they were soon filled with passengers eager again to set foot on *terra firma*, or, as they preferred to call it, *terra cotta*, one of the tiny jests that help to amuse at sea.

Such a landing! yet the natives told us that there

were not two days in a whole year when we could have got ashore under such favourable circumstances, and one of those days we had, by the favour of Tangaroa ("Neptune" of the Pacific), managed to hit. There was just one little break in the mighty walls of cliff. A passage-way of sand hardly wider than the stairway of a house, and at the foot of this was a strip of beach about 30 ft. long. But we by no means landed on that margin of nice clean sand. There was the reef between us and it, and even between us and the end of a tiny ram-shackled wharflet that pretended to be a place where boats could come alongside, and which was only a straddle-legged mockery, for there was no water within 20 ft. of it, only hard coral rock. There was a cleft in this coral, however, and into this cleft the surf-boat, with its crowd of visitors passed.

Beautiful blue water, water intensely, dazzlingly blue; so solidly blue that one felt sure that if a bucketful of it should be lifted it would dye your clothes a right royal azure. This was only its depth, however, for the sea-floor is fathomless right up to the cliffs, and when the water is seen on the reef or over coral it is as limpid as crystal. Into the blue cleft passed the boat, now sinking deep between the walls, now rising on a wave 8 ft. or 10 ft. higher to the reef level. One sailor leapt out with the boat's painter, and down sank the boat out of sight. Up it rose again. Two or three more of the men jumped ashore before the next downrush, and this went on till all were ashore. Anon from the gentler sex faint little shrieks were heard, for being ashore was by no means the same as being in safety, solid though the footing might be. The water-worn coral looked level almost as a floor, but it was split across in all directions with innocent-looking cracks 1 in. or even 3 in. across, making a roughly tesselated surface. Beneath these cracks were caves and fissures wherein the sea ran riot at its will, so that, when one had landed on the reef, borne on the top of a wave, the receding water, sucked away into subterranean depths, left the treacherous

Sports at Tonga.

The Premier and Miss May Seddon at Opening of Parliament, Tonga.

Mrs. Dyer and Princess Ofa, Tonga

College Students marching, Tonga.

surface dry. If, however, one did not instantly rush for the wharf and clamber thereon, or gain with a mighty effort the sandy stairway, then with a great sigh the returning wave rushed up through the innumerable crevices and flooded round your legs and feet. Hish-sh-sh ! it was dry again. Rush for the shore ! Hish-sh-sh ! up welled the gentle geyser, and you were knee-deep in the wide ocean ; but it was your fault if you were caught twice. Luckily, in such a climate, shoes and stockings wet with salt water were rather cool and comforting than dangerous or unpleasant.

Crowds of natives, smiling, pleasant, brightly dressed, welcomed us up the stairway and on to the plateau above the cliffs. Under the huge, lovely coco-palms they stood in groups eager to proffer salutations to visitors in this strange steamer that was neither trader, man-of-war, nor missionary craft. At first they had been afraid when they saw the smoke miles away, for not long ago—a few months only—the British flag had been hoisted, and they were timorous lest the visit of a man-of-war meant that they had in some way offended against the law of their new "protector," and that a warship was on a visit of punishment. Alas ! that in the Pacific only too often the British warship has been used as the exponent of unreason, when villages have been shelled and innocent people slaughtered because some of the crew of one of the kidnapping, man-catching labour vessels had been killed, or there had been committed some other violence. However, we were harmless in spite of the streaming pennant at the mast-head of our vessel, and our mission was not of vengeance, but of friendship, so we were welcomed not only for ourselves, but from a sense of relief after anxiety.

We wandered up to the beautiful home of the Rev. Mr. F. Lawes, the resident missionary, by whom and by Mrs. Lawes and Miss Lawes we were received with the utmost kindness and hospitality. We imparted the general news concerning the war, &c., and were told that the residents were hourly expecting the missionary

schooner, the "John Williams," which was overdue, and which was their means of communication with the outer world. As Mr. Lawes had a daughter on board, returning to Savage Island from Sydney, they were intensely anxious.

Here it will be well to anticipate the story and tell what we afterwards heard as to the "John Williams." The unfortunate vessel arrived in Rarotonga, but three men had died on the passage from Sydney. It was said on board that they had died of bronchitis, but, as the vessel had sailed from a plague-infected port, this statement was received with incredulity, and they were ordered to get away from Rarotonga. "Where," said the poor sailors, "are we to go?" They were answered: "That is no concern of ours; but you cannot stay here. Off you go!" This seems hard-hearted; but such orders were dictated by stern necessity, as, should the plague get amongst natives like those of Rarotonga, they would soon cease to exist; so the unfortunate "John Williams" put out to sea and sailed away into the unknown, probably making for Auckland or Apia, in Samoa, where there is a quarantining ground.

Among the crowd of natives were many who had curios for sale. In some islands which we visited the natives had nothing but fruit to offer us; they had either parted already with any of their small belongings that they cared to relinquish, or were too lazy to work and make more. But these Niue people are amongst the most industrious of all Polynesians; their services are eagerly sought in other islands as workmen, and, besides the five thousand people who are to be found on the island, there are generally five hundred who are away in other places at work. So they proffered jagged spears, heavy clubs (shaped somewhat like a Maori paddle), model canoes with outriggers, coils of braided human hair for making watch-guards, necklaces of shells and crimson berries, choice single shells from the reef, tail-feathers of the tropic-bird, &c. The fans and hats were especially well made, and have a reputation all over the Pacific for

Secretarial Swells Tonga.

flexible durability. Even in Suva we had bought fans recommended to us because "made in Niue," with the difference that in Fiji they had asked us about four times as much for them as the makers here did. It was true that they wanted money for their goods, but that was no wonder, for even their smallest article of sale represented much time and labour expended. One of our party succumbed to the beguilement of a young lady who could not apparently understand or speak a word of English, but who nevertheless managed to acquire all his small change and load him up with fans, hats, &c. When they parted, the visitor touched her under the chin with his finger; upon which she astonished him by saying, "I'm afraid that you are a flirt." When we asked the price of anything the answer almost invariably was "Tsillin," so at last we began to say to one another "All on this table one shilling." A curious accent, or rather sibilant, distinguishes the Niue speech (with, of course, a great many other and far more difficult differences) from most Polynesian dialects—viz., that *t* is sounded either *s* or *ts*.

Although the sun was nearly setting, it was thought that there was still time for a short walk along the road above the cliffs and through the palm groves, so we started, thinking that we would see as much as possible before the inevitable recall would shortly sound. A curious walking party it was. Two or three European ladies with four or five natives on each side, twenty in front and twenty behind, then two or three European men with a similar body-guard, laughing, chattering, singing. As the twenty visitors had about three hundred native friends all trying to engage their attention and show their kindly feelings, the walk was scarcely suitable for meditation or research.

Originally the Savage Islanders disposed of their dead by setting the corpse adrift in a canoe, just as the Moriori of the Chatham Islands (near New Zealand) used to do. Sometimes, however, they laid the body on a pile of stones in the bush, and covered it over with coco-nut leaves;

after a time the bones were collected and deposited in the family cave. All the plantations, coco-nut trees, &c., of a deceased person were destroyed, and thrown into the sea, in order to accompany the departed one to the land of spirits. This was a subterranean region known as Maui, a true land of shadows; but they had a heaven in the skies, the realm of Sina, where there was always perpetual day, and darkness never fell on the vision of the souls at rest. Now, the graves in Niue are covered with large masses of stone, or, rather, of lime-concrete. There is a great cluster of these graves near the school-house, and they are to be seen at intervals along the road-side, for it is a rule that each Savage Islander is to be buried on his or her land. There is considerable variety in shape given to these massive memorial-stones; one of them was in the rude form of a ship, but it had become broken in half, probably under the influence of weather. Widows used to singe off the hair of the head as a sign of mourning on the husband's death.

As the time came near for return to the steamer, urgent requests were made to Mr. Seddon not to leave that night. It was said that the King, who was old and could not get to Alofi at short notice, would be deeply grieved if the distinguished visitor left the island without seeing him, and that if the steamer could be delayed till morning the guests should receive a royal welcome at the village, only five miles away, where the King resided. The entreaties of the party were added to those of the natives, for the island was so picturesque and beautiful with its tropical luxuriance of vegetation and "out of the world" simplicity of human character that the temptation to see more of it was very strong. Captain Post had been slowly moving his vessel about in the meantime, his sailors steadily heaving the lead into the blue depths of water to try and find if, at unlimited outlay of cable, there might be some holding-ground. At last this was done, and the sturdy "Tutanekai" rode to her anchor at some little distance off shore. There seemed little chance in the warm steady breath of the trade-wind that any

The Queen of Tonga and Mrs. Seddon

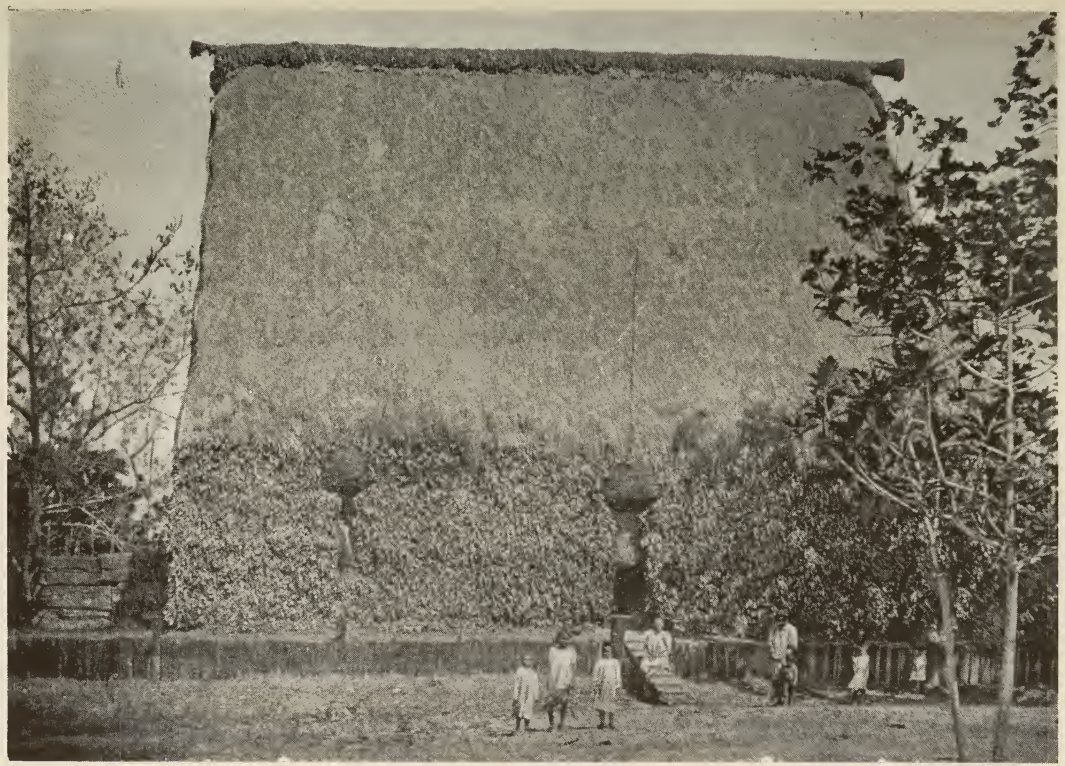
State School and Teachers, Suva.

State School, Suva.

Fijians making Fire.

A Coral Atoll Fiji

Making Kava, Fiji.



Princess Thakombau's House, Rewa River.

River Scene, Suva

Taro Patch, Suva.

9 A typical Fijian, Suva.

Boats in the Harbour, Suva.

Arrival at Suva Wharf.

Village Scene, Suva.

sudden change of the weather might imperil the ship or make a dangerous "lee-shore" of the iron-bound coast, so at last it was decided that it was safe to stay the night, and that we should be able to have a full day of sunlight and frolic to spend at Niue.

To avoid having to take the passengers back to the ship in the rapidly-falling darkness, and to give them one night of rest and ease away from the cradle-motion of the long Pacific rollers, the hospitality of the few white settlers was taxed to find sleeping accommodation for so large a party of guests. However, lodgings were found for all excepting the few of those who preferred to stay on board, and the evening was spent in visiting from house to house and wandering among the great coco-palms that grew along the grassy street. Mrs. Lawes, Mrs. Head, and Mrs. Macquarrie opened their houses to the guests, and in mutual inquiries as to news from civilization and as to life in the lonely island the time soon passed. Several of the men slept at the house of Mr. Pierce, whose Rarotongan wife and half-caste family were as hospitable and courteous as their European sisters. One of the male guests remarked next day upon the graceful courtesy extended to one of his sex and age, he having found a bouquet of flowers tied to the foot of his bed, and a wreath of beautiful scented blossoms on his pillow. The sex that among ourselves take such tributes rightly as its due would not perhaps feel so gratified at such a delicate compliment as was the masculine recipient of the attention.

In the middle of the night horses began to arrive for the visit of next day, for word had gone round to the villages right and left of Alofi that everything in the way of horseflesh which could be raked together would be wanted for the journey. Extraordinary specimens of nags some of them were, ponies not much bigger than a Newfoundland dog, and all as poor as church mice; but they were better than they looked, bananas as food evidently give toughness to the ligaments, and, seeing that one of them carried the Premier, who rides twenty stone if

a pound, as weight-carriers you cannot beat a banana-fed Niue pony. Then, they were all the islanders had; and the free-hearted generosity with which they were offered, together with the trouble taken at night to bring them there, made them in our eyes better than Derby-winners. Who wanted to sleep, in that soft delicious air of the tropic night, with all the murmurs of sea and thicket in their ears, with the young moon and great stars shining through the plumes of the palm, with the electric lights of the steamer glimmering like a cluster of fairy-lamps from the sea below, the sea itself spreading vast and illimitable along the dim horizon? That night ashore will linger long in many memories.

With the dawn broke a busy day, and after an early breakfast there was hurry and bustle to form the cavalcade; a formal invitation from the King having reached Mr. Seddon. The weather was of the most delightful character; cloudless sky, no wind, and the warm, clear air full of fragrant odours. There was only one very small buggy available, and the seat in this was assigned to Mrs. Seddon, Mr. Pierce acting as her guide and driver. Mr. Seddon mounted his pony, which, although not apparently built to carry twenty stone, did its noble best, and the pride of carrying a real live Premier into the presence of a king gave it prodigious strength, for it performed the feat without turning a hair or rendering necessary a prosecution for cruelty to animals. Had the pony been given, like Baalam's ass, the power of speech, it would not have corroborated the poet, who said "How sad it is to say farewell!" The ladies found steeds of differing capabilities, but the men had to walk, a matter which was of no great concern, as the distance was only some five miles; but it was a very warm five miles, and those who had to walk there and back found the climate did not need great-coats or mufflers. Coral roads are trying to feet used for some time to the even flooring of a vessel's deck.

The path was bordered almost all the way by coco-palms, but the sea was seldom visible, although here and there glimpses of it could be obtained. At one place the

Street Scene, Suva.

road touched the sea-cliff, and there was a sheer fall of over a hundred feet into the breakers. Two or three small villages of native houses were passed; there were few people in them, as most of the inhabitants had gone on to the reception at the king's place of residence. The names of the coast villages of Niue are Alofi, Avatele, Makefu, Tamaha-tokula, Tamalagau, Uhomotu, Liku, Mutulau, Tamakautoga, Hakupu, and Fatiau.

On arriving in the vicinity of Tuapa, the king's residence, an advanced guard of a few most savage and truculent warriors confronted the little procession. They were "dressed to kill" evidently, and if the majority of the natives who in this island sought to stay the landing of Captain Cook looked half as bloodthirsty and ferocious as these gentry, it is no wonder that the great navigator called Niue "Savage Island." Attired in turbans and waist-mats, armed with the peculiar long paddle-shaped club, these warriors performed their antics of defiance. They crouched low and advanced, thrust with the spear-end of the club, swung its butt-end, retreated, crouched, and sprang again, uttering their war-cries, and behaving as if possessed by all the furies of savage combat. Indeed, some of the ladies began to get slightly nervous in being the objects of such demonstrative attention, but as the party advanced the warriors fell back. The native warriors were reinforced by an extraordinary female friend of theirs dressed mostly in green leaves, &c., and with a curious green head-dress, rising high from the back of the head; she also gibbered and quivered and danced furiously, but wasted her violence so far as intimidation was concerned, for the King's palace was reached by all in safety.

The village was crowded with people, all in the brightest of holiday dresses and beaming with welcome. Outside the King's house was a solitary guard or policeman, but he was a host in himself. He was dressed in a coat and trousers of light-blue cloth or flannel with the bright silver buttons of authority, and a straw hat. Mr. Head, a very old resident, welcomed the party. He was

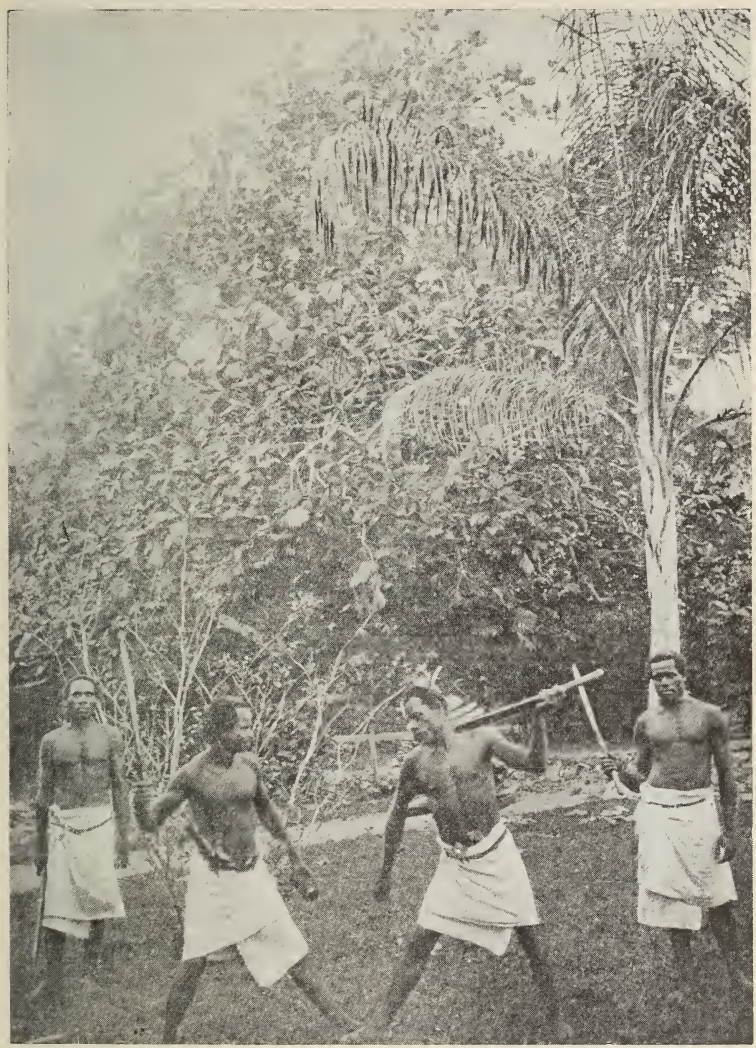
wrecked more than half a century ago on Niue, and has lived there ever since, bringing up a large and fine family of sons and daughters. By his efforts he has greatly aided the work of Mr. Lawes and the native teachers during his long and useful life. He acted as interpreter during the visit.

The visitors entered the King's house, a large white concrete building, and were presented to him. The young Queen then stepped forward and presented Mrs. Seddon with mats, fans, &c. The King, whose name is Tongiia, is an old and venerable-looking man, apparently about seventy years of age or more. He wore a white shirt, collar, and dark necktie, but about the lower part of his body was wound a beautifully-woven native mat reaching to the ground. His wife is quite young, probably about twenty-three or twenty-four years of age, and of a very pleasant and winning type of face. Her name was formerly Mokapula, but on marriage it was changed to Lotomata. She wore, in honour of the occasion, her white wedding-dress, for she was recently a bride, and she seemed very conscious of the exigencies of her train. On her head was a wreath of flowers made from the arrowroot plant (*pia*) in the form of artificial roses, and a bunch of the same flowers adorned her bosom.

The King made a short speech, in which he expressed his pleasure in welcoming Mr. Seddon and his friends to Niue. Mr. Seddon then presented the King with a large Union Jack, a gift with which the native ruler was evidently much pleased. The New Zealand Premier told them that as long as the British flag floated over them they would be free and protected from foreign invasion or trouble of any kind with their neighbours. The flag was the emblem of their being children of the great Queen and Empress. He had come to the islands for the benefit of his health, but he felt sure that every one who came would speak of the great pleasure to be derived from such a visit and would induce others to come. He himself had already felt the health-advantages of his trip, and although now the Island of Niue was little

Tennis Court, Suva.

Street Scene, Suva.



Settling Differences under the Bread-fruit Trees, Fiji.

Water-trees, Government House, Suva.

Happy in Solitude, Fiji.

known in New Zealand, not nearly so well known as Tonga, he would attempt to arrange for better steam-communication between the island and the colonies. The King thanked Mr. Seddon for his kindness, and said he hoped to receive many visits from him in the future. Takiura, the *Faipule* (mayor) of the village, made a short speech of welcome for the visit and thanks for the flag, expressing the opinion that all the Niue people were glad to feel themselves to be children of Queen Victoria. The King was the owner of a fine portrait of Her Majesty the Empress of India, and he was very delighted when promised by our Premier a large photograph of himself (Mr. Seddon) to act as a companion picture. All then adjourned to the open air, where the King and chiefs gave a song of welcome, and photographs were taken: one of the King and Mr. Seddon with the British flag, and others of groups of the hosts and visitors. The King explained that the song was an ancient composition and belonged to long-ago times. Their forefathers sang it, but few now could understand the words. The song is as follows:—

A Niuean Song.

Tu la i ō. Tagaloa ho motu koto-fatofa, ti mafola ia tu i. Niue hafagina vaha ke hake mai.	O Tangaroa, thine is the land of wisdom! Niue is always at peace when you come.
Chorus.	
Pu mo e fonu ko e ika tapu ia he moana. Tagaloa ho lagi mamao ē.	The Turtle and the Shark are sacred fish that dwell in the ocean. O Tangaroa from the far-off sky (land).
He uhila kua lapa tata mai, fatiia ho la tavahi mata, Pogipogi to uhu ke liogi.	The Lightning has suddenly played, shattered is the green *tavahi* (a strong kind of tree). In the morning let us wail and pray.
Chorus.	
Pu mo e fonu, &c.	The Turtle and the Shark, &c.
Tagaloa ho motu ke tofatofa tapu ia he moana, Tagaloa he lagi mamao ē. Lapa uhila lapa kua toga, uluola tapu kia Tagaloa, fakatoka ke hataki e fono, ke alito aki e liualagi.	O Tangaroa, thine is the land of sacred wisdom. O Tangaroa from the ocean, from the far-off sky. The Lightning played; it played from the South. O Sacred Head to Tangaroa, the head and leader of Parliament, making laws precious as the apple of the eye, and sacred as the inner heaven.

Chorus.

Pu mo e fonu, &c. — The Turtle and the Shark, &c.

Maui tu taha i Paluki, Ke takono e lagi kua mamao. — O Maui, who came to Paluki (a place in Niue) from dwelling in the sky (outer world) far away.

Chorus.

Pu mo e fonu, &c. — The Turtle and the Shark, &c.

Ati kula mo e hina Tagaloa ne alito aki e fonua galo. — Red and white art thou, O Tangaroa, precious one from the unseen country.

Chorus.

Pu mo e fonu, &c. — The Turtle and the Shark, &c.

Niu tu ei Tonatonamohola agi valu e matagi ke haia. — O Coconut Tree, standing at Tonatonamohola (a breezy spot on Niue), where the light winds of heaven converge, &c.

Chorus.

Pu mo e fonu, &c. — The Turtle and the Shark, &c.*

Mrs. Seddon was presented with a royal girdle of large white shells. Then the maidens of the neighbourhood, nearly a hundred strong, formed into a semicircle and gave some very pretty songs. There was distinctly melody in their singing, and with its admirable rhythm and time-beating it resembled the Samoan music we had heard in Levuka. Two of the performers kept crossing and re-crossing in front of the others. All these girls had been trained under Miss Bessy Head, a young half-caste lady who devotes much of her time to a school for these Niue lassies. About Miss Head more should be spoken here to somewhat acknowledge the gratitude the visitors felt. She had ridden into Alofi shortly after we arrived, and when it was settled that we would stay till the next morning, she had started off just before midnight to ride through the bush by herself, warning the villagers as she went, till she reached the King's residence. Then she

* Note.—The translation was furnished by the Rev. J. J. K. Hutchin, Rarotonga. The song is interesting to scholars, because it shows that the old language of Niue was to be understood by any good Polynesian scholar. The modern dialect certainly is not translatable, except by a local interpreter. Therefore, the great change in the language is modern.

The Church of the Redeemer, Fiji.

worked all the rest of the night baking delicious cakes and confections for the visitors; at daylight started to get her girls dressed in holiday attire and drilled for the coming exhibition. She was indeed an example of tireless hospitality, and in the clime "where 'tis always afternoon" proved that she had not eaten of the Lotos and become languid with the food that enervates the dweller in the Coral Lands.

It was to the house of her parents that her European visitors were taken for what they all declared to be "the most delicious afternoon tea they had ever enjoyed." Several young Englishmen, representatives of trading and other interests in the island, had joined the party. After a large quantity of food, consisting of bananas, yams, taro, and a half-grown squealing pig of Captain Cook's renowned and unmistakable breed had been presented to Mr. Seddon by the King, it was taken possession of by a body of retainers, who carried it for five miles to the landing-place. Mr. Seddon, in bidding farewell to the King and chiefs, alluded to the way the party of visitors had been dressed up with all manner of native finery, wreaths, head-dresses, &c., and said that his family had taken such a fancy to the place that they seemed already turned into Niue people, and if they stayed much longer they would be so changed that he would hardly know them. He thought that the place should no longer be called Savage Island, but "the Island of Love." He thanked the King, Queen, chiefs, and the native people, and the white residents also, for their very great kindness and hospitality to their guests.*

The party, in high spirits, then returned, some on horseback, some on foot, to Alofi. Here they found three or four of the passengers, who had not been able, from want of transport or fear of a sunstroke, to visit the King. For these Mr. Lawes had kindly acted as cicerone in explorations of the local curiosities. One of these was a place of much interest. It was called "The Cave of the Tongans." An immense hole in

* See Appendix C.

the ground was entered by a sloping path, amid huge masses of coral rock, and at the bottom was seen to widen out into a great chamber lying in almost total darkness. Overhead was a narrow rift only 3 ft. or 4 ft. wide, through which the blue sky was to be seen. The story of the cave, as related by our guide, was that long ago a war-party of Tongans had sailed across the waves for hundreds of miles to Niue. The people of the land dreaded the Tongans, not only as fierce warriors (for they themselves were renowned as fighting-men), but because the invaders were cannibals, and the use of human flesh as food had always been abhorrent to the dwellers on Savage Island. By the use of skilful tactics they had drawn the Tongans to the vicinity of the rift above the cave, at that place level with the surrounding land. Over the rift a few light sticks and large leaves had been laid so as to hide the fact of any fissure in the earth existing. When the Tongans made their charge they had to pass across the rift, and they crashed through the deceptive leaves, piling their corpses on the floor of the cavern a hundred feet below. The cave looks a fitting place for the perpetration of such a deed, and the tale had a ghostly horror when told amid the environing shadows.

A stroll along a narrow path towards the centre of the island was taken. Here and there were little clearings in which bananas were growing, in some places apparently out of the white coral rock itself, the graceful trees not seeming to have an inch of soil to spring from, but as if they were rooted in cracks among the stones. Generally, however, the path led through scrub of no particular interest or beauty, but on the edge of the cleared road were innumerable begonias and scarlet salvia plants.

The people of Niue say that in ancient days their island was a mere rock, just awash in the sea. Two gods named Fao and Huanaki swam thither from Tonga, and when they got to this mid-ocean reef they stamped on the rock with their feet and the land rose from the waves. They stamped again, and grass, trees, &c., sprang up. From

Government Buildings Suva.

Law and Order: "Move on!" Suva.

Street Scene, Suva.

A Fijian Warrior.

Street Scene Suva: Perambulators.

French Mission Station, Rewa River.

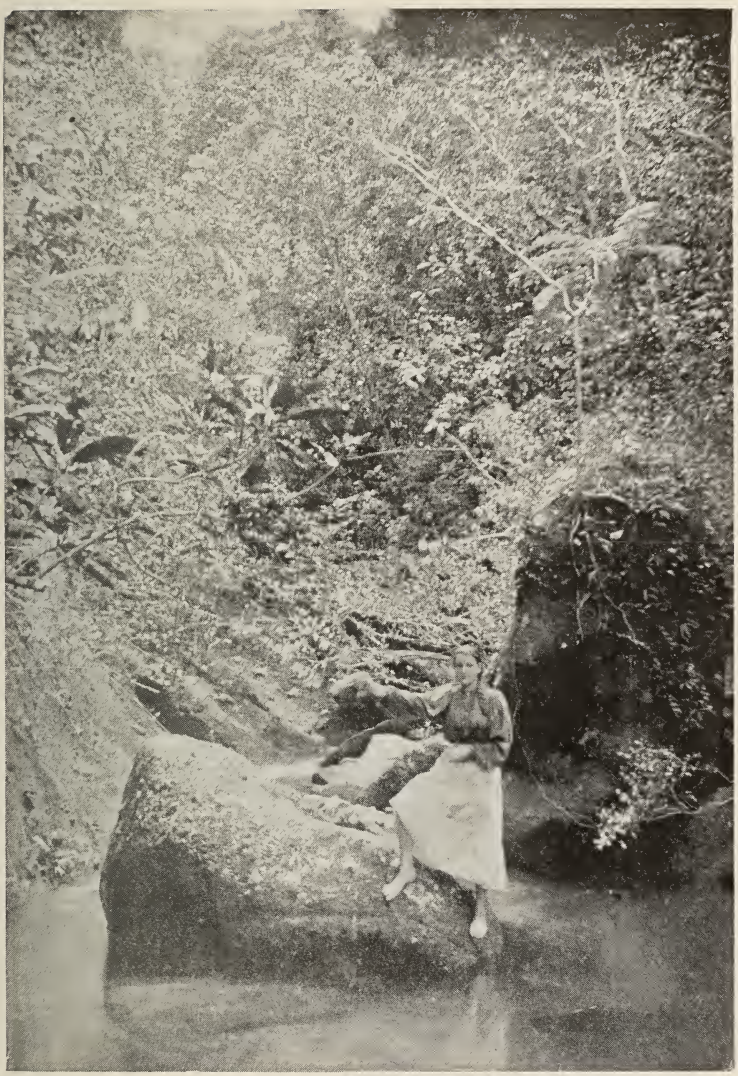
Levuka.

Bird's-eye View of Levuka

Address of Welcome, Levuka.

Fijian Natives and White Trader.

The Wharf, Suva.



River Scene, Suva.

Masonic Lodge, Suva.

the root of the *ti* plant (the cabbage-tree, *Cordyline*) the gods made the first man and woman, and the progeny of this pair peopled the island. The Savage Islanders used to worship the spirits of ancestors, and they had one image to which they paid a religious homage; but on the occasion of the appearance of a mortal epidemic that devastated the country, they conceived the idea that it was the work of the god dwelling in the idol, so they broke the image up. This impatience with rulers or deities who did not perform their duties with sufficient beneficence or regularity was not confined to spiritual personages pure and simple. The king was supposed to hold the highest priestly as well as regal position, and to be intercessor between gods and men. Therefore in time of drought or sickness the priest-king was not supposed to be doing his work properly, and was incontinently knocked on the head and another set in his place. At last, however, there came a time when drought continued season after season, and so many kings were "removed" that no one could be found to take the billet. The effect of this intolerance of failure was that the office of monarch was abolished, and a democratic or oligarchic government by heads of families set up, which continued nearly to the present day. The institution of kingship in Niue is a *renaissance* of very modern date—a thing of yesterday. The king even of to-day is not king by birth, but is elected by the arikis or chiefs, and holds office during life or pleasure.

Illegitimate children formerly were thrown into the sea, or abandoned in the forest, as soon as born. To-day things are very much changed for the better. Married people who have no children of their own take these waifs, and in cases where there are large families the adoption of the children by friends is very common; and where parents have children of their own they take as a token of love the children of their friends and rear them. At the same time great care is observed in preserving the name and tribe of the youngster that has been adopted. The practice of adopting children is common on many of the islands, as it is amongst the Maoris of New Zealand.

Suicide in former times was very frequent, the favourite mode of exit from the world being to jump over the cliffs into the sea. The ancient dress was very simple, the men wearing only a small waist-cloth (*malo*), and the women a leaf-girdle or small petticoat. They were fond of music, and played well on the flute—a nose flute, sometimes single and sometimes double. Shipwrecked people were always killed, and even if any of their own people went to another island they were killed on returning to Niue, lest they should introduce disease—this is a sort of ultra-quarantine. How changed are they to-day! It makes one an optimist perforce, to think of the capabilities of human nature under the influence of loving teaching and good example.

On the return of the party that had gone to see the king, an invitation was received to attend at a native feast, given by Mr. Pierce, at his house. The residence had been prettily decorated with wreaths of flowers, &c., and the tables were loaded with a variety of eatables: pigs (cooked whole), taro, yams, &c. Each guest was provided with a coconut, full of its cool refreshing milk, and in this the health of our Queen was drunk, after being proposed by Mr. Seddon. *Kava* there was none, to our great relief, for in many South Sea islands it is considered rude to decline the horrible stuff; but the Niue people have never prepared *kava* as a beverage, though in old days they sometimes used a small piece of the root bound upon the point of a spear, fancying that it gave efficacy to the weapon. Speeches were made after the dinner at Mr. Pierce's, and then some of the party again mounted their horses, not willing to part with them until the camera had once more done its work. At the touch of the saddle some of the younger riders were infected with the racing spirit, and urged their mounts into a gallop of competition along the grassy street. It was a remarkable exhibition, considered as a race, most of the steeds setting off in different directions among the coco-palms towards the abodes of their native owners; and, as there were no side-saddles, and seats were precarious, the efforts of the fair equestrians to

The Rising Generation, Suva.

get the speed on when they "came into the straight" were attended with difficulty. But a "win" was finally agreed on, and the delight of the islanders, who are more accustomed to surf than horseback, came to an end. So did the visit, and the Premier thanked the inhabitants for their kindness, saying he had never been amongst so happy and innocent a people. He hoped that his visit might yet be of profit to them as well as pleasure to himself, for he should recommend the island as a veritable sanatorium.

One last look at the fine church and the comfortable schools—and then to the boats. The interior of the church has been depicted in published photographs before (in Mr. Moss's "Through Atolls and Islands"), and is very handsome, although somewhat marred by the long line of slanting timber supports used to strengthen the church against hurricanes, one of which nearly wrought its collapse a little while ago. The schools were roomy, shady buildings, having wooden "louvres" or venetians instead of windows.

One pleasant thing to be noticed in Savage Island was the absence of any annoying insect-life. We had been prepared for swarms of flies, for every previous visitor had remarked on the plague of flies that made the place almost unbearable by Europeans. Louis Becke has recorded how, whenever a native woman visited a store in Niue, the trader stood at the door and cried to her before she could enter, "Brush off your flies!" This caution does not apply to Niue alone in the Pacific, for at the Rewa River, in Fiji, we had, on visiting the Sugar-works, noticed on the office door a paper, on which was written, "Please brush off your flies before entering." But, as before mentioned, Niue has become unfavourably famous (or rather notorious) for its flies, and great was the pleasure experienced when, on landing, we heard from Mrs. Lawes that no flies were to be found on the island. Some of the inhabitants regarded it as a portent of disaster, and that the flies must have died as the heralds of some coming pest; but they did not appear to have died,

only to have emigrated. It was said that they had all gone on board the last ship that preceded us. If so, the poor fellows on board must have had a good time, and realized what a deity Baalzebub, the god of flies, could be on an emergency. Speaking of portents, a story was related here of the belief of the natives in a "bird of misfortune." It is a huge bird, but has never been seen; only the rush of its wings in the night has been heard, and the mournful wailing of its note. Its visits only last a few weeks, and then it disappears, but it is a sure sign of trouble and calamity to Niue.

Like all islands that consist of upheaved coral, Niue is full of caves and undermined with great fissures, so that fresh water is valuable. Close to the spot where we landed a sloping cave like a huge burrow led down into the bowels of the earth. A slanting ladder was laid down, and up this difficult path the women carried water for washing, but it was very brackish, in fact almost purely salt-water, for it is said to rise and fall with the tide. During the day we had been so pleasantly occupied the captain of the "Tutanekai" had been out in the steam-launch taking soundings. He had found 100 fathoms right up to the cliffs, and although he had been for miles along the coast could get no anchorage except on the small bank on which the steamer was then steadily keeping her grip, although off Avatele village there was better holding-ground.

Several boatloads of passengers and their island friends (who wished to see the steamer) put off, and successfully passed the perils of the treacherous debarking point. The night fell quickly, as it always does in these latitudes, and our only accident occurred. Mrs. Seddon, who, with the Premier, had delayed to the last boat, was just going to step into it, when the down-suck of the wave caught the craft with its gunnel resting for a moment on the edge of the coral reef. In an instant the water sank from under the keel and the boat capsized, throwing its occupants into the swirling tide. They were quickly fished out, and no one was the worse for the spill, except that Mrs. Seddon was frightened and shaken by the sudden danger to which

Street Scene, Suva.

Visitors and Natives, Niue, or Savage Island.

At Niue, or Savage Island.

Group of Natives, Niue.

A Native Village, Niue.

the sailors were exposed. On board, ignorant of the accident, the passengers were taking unwilling farewells of their friends, and soon the shore-boat loaded with the kind people of Niue left us. Cheers were given and farewell songs sung as the boat faded away into the darkness, and when a last shout from the shore assured us that they had all landed safely, the "Tutanekai" weighed her anchor. An explosive rocket was sent up, awaking echoes that reverberated for miles, and said a last "good-bye" from ship to shore. One of the things that make a Briton proud for his country is to see the class of men that, bred under the Union Jack, have made their homes in the earth's wild places. Here at Niue, as elsewhere, they turned up; thin and lathy, pleasant, well-educated, well-groomed young men, clad in suits of spotless white, fit for any mess-table or tropical drawing-room. The trading to be done with the natives at this place is mostly in exchange for copra, hats, mats, weapons, and curios. Bananas, oranges, and other fruits grow in abundance, but, there being no regular means of communication, find no market. Cotton was formerly grown, but was given up as entailing too much trouble and labour for the price realised. Unlike the Tongans and Fijians, the Niue natives are hard-working and industrious, and this island supplies labour for many of the other islands.

Away, eastward and eastward. Another night at sea, another day at sea; yet another night, and then, in the early morning, there sprang up in the track of the rising sun the picturesque and beautiful mountains of Rarotonga. High peaks and masses of rock pierced the sky with fantastic contours that were covered with luxuriant verdure, except where rift and precipice broke through the green mantle. A low rolling ridge and a semicircle of flat littoral lay at the foot of the superb hills, and on these lower lands were groves of coco-palms and bananas, denoting the homes and cultivations of the islanders.

Arrival at Rarotonga.

We anchored off Avarua, the principal village. Colonel Gudgeon, Her Majesty's Representative in the Cook

Islands, came off to us with the Health Officer as we lay at anchor, and as we were "clean" from the quarantine point of view, we were soon allowed to send the steam-launch up to the wharf. Crowds of gentle-eyed brown natives surrounded us as we landed. We were told that the non-arrival of the "Tutanekai" about the date (Queen's Birthday) on which we had been expected had caused some anxiety, as it was feared that the vessel had been obliged to put back owing to the serious illness of the Premier. Their minds had therefore been greatly relieved when they saw the smoke from our funnel in the offing. The preparations, however, which had been made to give Mr. Seddon a fitting reception had been abandoned, and the people had dispersed, so that it was thought better to wait for a few days before attempting to give a formal welcome, in order that the chiefs and people might prepare a suitable demonstration. It was therefore agreed on that the Premier should go and visit some of the other islands of the group, and on his return the Queen and nobles would see that a fitting reception and entertainment be prepared.

Mr. Seddon, Colonel Gudgeon, and several of the visitors paid an unofficial visit to the Queen. Makea, the well-known Queen of Rarotonga, is an elderly lady, stout in person, but with an intelligent and benignant expression of face. She is married to the Ariki (prince, or noble) Ngamaru, who is a chief of the adjoining islands of Atiu, Mauke, and Mitiaro. He and the Queen received Mr. Seddon and his friends with kindly warmth. Mr. Seddon expressed his pleasure in seeing a place and people that he had long wished to visit, but which visit he had for many years been obliged to postpone. He informed Makea of his intention to visit Mangaia and Aitutaki Islands, and then to return to Rarotonga, a proposal in which the Queen acquiesced. Mr. Seddon concluded by saying that if the chiefs would meet him on his return he would endeavour to give them all the assistance in his power for the benefit of the island group.

Mother and Child Niue

In the afternoon Mr. Seddon visited the Catholic Mission School, and was shown over the establishment by the Sisters. Afterwards, the London Missionary Society's station was inspected, a very handsome two-storied structure, standing in beautiful and spacious grounds. The Rev. Mr. Hutchin, the missionary at present resident, has a long and interesting record of service in the islands of the Cook Group, and both he and Mrs. Hutchin offered every kindness and hospitality to the steamer's passengers during their stay in Rarotonga.

This island showed us one of its malignant insects, viz., the hornet. We had been most wonderfully fortunate the whole voyage hitherto, in the way of missing unpleasant "crawly things," centipedes, &c., which we had heard of, but did not see. Here, however, hornets of two colours made their appearance; the two colours were sexual marks, we found, distinguishing the harmless male from the vicious female; for, like the mosquito, it is only the female that bites. It was some time before the visitors could regard the advent of one of these creatures with equanimity, but no one was hurt by them during our stay.

During the afternoon, while on our wanderings, we did not notice much difference between Rarotonga and other tropical islands, except in two instances. One was, that in the river near the landing-place were growing many plants of the exquisite water-hyacinth in full bloom. The flower is of a delicate mauve or lilac tint, and would be welcomed anywhere but for one great fault, viz., that it is a most prolific river-weed, and grows out of all bounds. In a small stream, of course, this matters little, but in America it fills up navigable rivers and impedes navigation so greatly as almost to stop traffic entirely in some places. Therefore it is to be hoped that its pretty flowers may not be seen in New Zealand waters, or, if so, that the climate may affect its spreading powers. The other peculiarity noticed was of quite another kind, it was a matter of currency. In making purchases at the stores change was given in Peruvian dollars, huge silver pieces as

big as an old-fashioned five-shilling piece, "the cartwheel" of our youth. This coin, however bulky, only represented 1s. 9d. of our own money. There was also a coin about the size of a florin, the half-dollar, value, about 10½d. English money was gladly taken by the storekeepers, because the Post Office declined to receive dollars, but change was given in the Chilian or Peruvian silver money if possible. Prices in the stores were marked up in dollars and cents, and we needed mental calculation before we could estimate values. As to the inconvenience and loss accruing to the community from this form of currency, more hereafter.

About 8 o'clock in the evening of the day we had arrived we left behind us a brass band with torches on the wharf, and a crowd of friendly natives there gathered as we started for Mangaia, which lies a little over a hundred miles east of Rarotonga. Colonel Gudgeon, Mrs. and Miss Hilda Gudgeon, together with Mr. Goodwin of Rarotonga as interpreter, accompanied us on the voyage, and as the weather was very fine a swift passage was anticipated; our old friend, "wind a-head," however, was with us there as elsewhere. The next morning at daybreak land was sighted, and by breakfast-time we found ourselves lying off the village of Oneroa, in Mangaia.

Arrival at Mangaia.

Mangaia is a long, low island, something like Niue in appearance, and destitute of the sharp peaks and hill scenery which beautify Rarotonga, but heavily timbered, and bordered towards the sea with groves of coco-palms. White houses and a large church showed plainly from where the steamer lay. Anchorage was difficult to find, but at last the flukes held fast in 75 fathoms (450 ft.) of water. It was said that the "Tutanekei" had the proud distinction of being the first steamer to anchor off the island. Dozens of outrigger canoes surrounded the vessel, not, however, with things for sale. The occupants seemed more to be impelled by pure curiosity and friendliness than with any desire for gain. Then came the landing. This

Mr. Seddon and the King of Niue.

Mr. Seddon and the King of Niue.

A Trader and his Family, Niue.

Royalty of Savage Island and its Visitors.

we had looked forward to with mixed feelings, for we had been informed of the peculiar and only condition of landing at Mangaia—viz., that the reef had to be jumped on the top of a wave.

The natives have a belief (well known in other places also) that every ninth wave is a big one, so they count them one by one, and when the ninth comes, on to the reef you go.

The idea to any one who watched the great white-tipped rollers rushing up on to the coral of the fringing reef was not reassuring. However, the lady visitors showed as much pluck as their male friends in their determination to get ashore, and to set at nought the fears of ordinary dwellers on solid ground. Boats, of course, were useless in the emergency; they were neither strong enough nor handy enough for such a piece of work as was to be attempted; the outrigger canoe is the only craft that dares to face the Mangaian reef. The ordinary canoes which surrounded the ship only held one person —viz., the navigator. The canoe for passengers was a larger vessel, but only one of these was available, and all our party had to be taken in companies of four or five at a time. The canoe was so narrow that it just allowed one person to sit down on a thwart; but it was long, and had on board half a dozen native oarsmen, or paddlers, as crew besides the passengers. It was only the faith and confidence one had in these dusky "sons of the sea," who had been about the reef all their lives, and were as much at home in the water as fish, that allowed us to trust such precious lives in their charge in such a primitive-looking embarkation as that storm-beaten log of a canoe.

The Premier, Colonel Gudgeon, Mr. Goodwin, and Mr. Seddon's youngest son Stuart went in the first boat-load, and they were anxiously watched till we could see them safe ashore. They were so far off that the exact process was hardly discernible, and from the time it took to land the first load of passengers, and for the canoe to return to the ship, it was evident that the day would be spent before we got ashore if some quicker means were not adopted, so the

surf-boat was lowered and passengers crowded into it; this was then rowed close in to the landing-place on the reef, and the visitors transferred to the canoe as fast as it could go and return. We sat in the canoe (very rickety it seemed as one balanced on the narrow thwart), with our feet awash, for there was plenty of water inside the canoe as well as outside after a few trips. The native sailors gently moved their paddles till we were within a short distance of the reef, and then we waited patiently while roller after roller went under us, heaved us up on its unbroken bosom and then thundered shoreward. Patience, patience, till the right time: at the ninth wave the signal is given, and with a roaring yell from our crew the paddles dip and foam as we ride upon the roller to the very top of the wall of stone that girds the island. Thump! and the brown-skins are overboard in the churning foam. Another wave, and we are lifted by its help and by fifty straining arms over into the lagoon. It is low tide, however, and the water inside is only knee-deep at this place; moreover, the canoe is wanted to go back for others to get their experience also, so the passengers are carried shorewards on the backs or in the arms of the Polynesians. It is only a few hundred yards, but the coral is uneven, and the forms of some of the visitors are hardly those of fairies, so far as weight is concerned; so there is stumbling, and there are squeaks of affright. The ladies are each carried by two strong men who join their hands in the fashion children call "dandy-chair," and on this the lady sits with one arm round the neck of either stalwart bearer. Worse was the fate of the good Samaritan who volunteered as the "conveyancer" of the European male. The cares of State are heavy when they take the physical form of more than nineteen stone, but they were borne in safety. We were all safe ashore, and would not let our thoughts dwell for a single moment on how we were to get away again.

A large crowd of native men, women, and children surrounded us crying, "*Orana! Kia orana!*" (Health! life!) the usual salutation in the Cook Islands. The

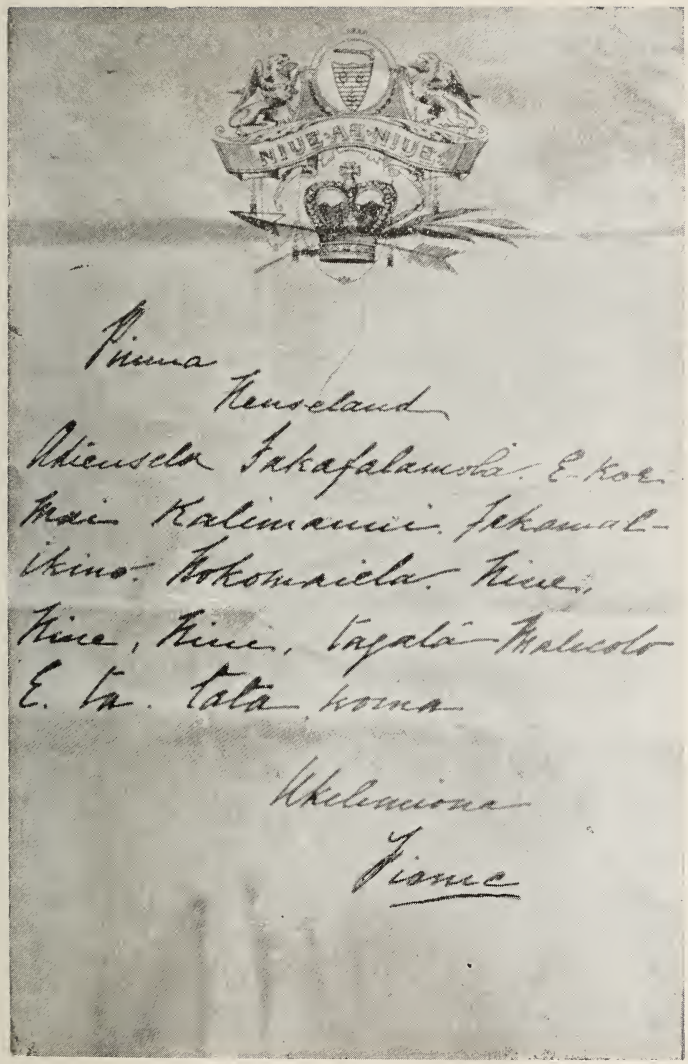
After the Race, Niue.

people were very like one another ; the type was much more "even" than in Rarotonga, probably because the formidable reef of Mangaia has made intercourse with the outer world more difficult, and so fewer strangers have come to live among them. There were swarms of children. The Rev. Mr. Cullen, the resident missionary, led us to his house, where we were welcomed by Mrs. Cullen and by Miss Ovenden, the latter a lady who resides with the missionary family and helps in evangelising work. The hospitality so graciously extended had little chance of preparation, for we had most unexpectedly appeared in an island where visitors are few indeed, sometimes not being in evidence for months at a time. As at Niue, the residents had been expecting the "John Williams," and were greatly disappointed when they heard that the vessel had been turned back at Rarotonga. We found the native village a pretty and interesting place. It is called Oneroa. The church is large and handsome. There are two other churches on the island, one at Ivirua and one at Tamarua. Near the landing-place at Oneroa are fine school buildings with carpenters' shops, &c., for a branch of technical education. There is also a printing office whence Mr. Cullen issues a small newspaper of the missionary class called *Te Karere* ("The Messenger"). A long street, with neat native houses on both sides of the way, passes under an avenue of coco-palms, the shade of which was most pleasant and desirable.

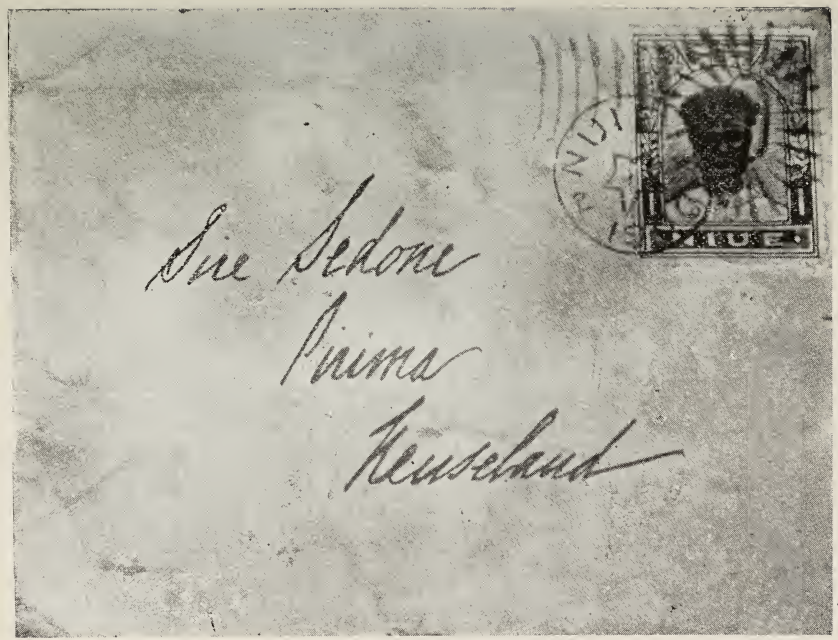
The island, although fringed by a coral reef, has no proper lagoon as atolls have. It is volcanic, about thirty miles in circumference, the interior being formed of plutonic rocks and red clay. Hills slope from the flat-topped centre, known as "the crown of Mangaia." Down to the sea flow streams of water which irrigate numberless taro plantations, but which afterwards generally sink through the coral near the shore, and find their way by subterranean channels to the sea. Groves of coco-nuts are flourishing, plantations of arrowroot, bananas, and coffee are to be found scattered for miles. There is a population of about two thousand people; equal to that of Rarotonga.

Mangaia is one of the most interesting places in the Pacific to those who care for the story of the Polynesian people. The forefathers of the present islanders were some of the most warlike people on earth in their way. The island is full of rocks, caves, and rough places, every one of which is connected with some terrible or pathetic legend of war, love, cannibalism, or heroism. Old ovens are shown at Putoa and at Angaitu, one over 40 ft., the other over 50 ft. across, and each of these has been filled with human heads. Sad to say, the same tribe in each case, the Aitu Tribe, furnished the victims. Captain Cook sailed round the island, but did not care to try the deadly reef in his boat. Many, however, of the Natives swam off to the boat which was trying to find a landing-place, and one of them (the chief Mourua) ventured on board the "Resolution," the chief receiving the present of a large knife from Cook, and stuck it in his ear, which was apparently the only pocket available in his swimming costume. He was thus sketched by one of the artists of the expedition. When the pioneer missionary, Williams, in 1823 tried to land native evangelists with their wives, they experienced such rough treatment on reaching the shore that they all, men and women, risked their lives by swimming through the surf back to the boat rather than remain. They had, of course, to leave their property behind, and amongst the goods were a male and female pig, the progenitors of the very many *puaka* which are cherished at this hour. Not cherished so much, however, as the primal pair of pigs thus abandoned, for these were treated as foreign deities, were conducted to the shrine of the war-god, wrapped in white *tapa* and regaled with the choicest food, until their dirty habits convinced the simple islanders that they could not be divinities. So rapidly did the breed of pigs increase that when in 1852 a feast was given to certain missionaries 1,000 hogs were killed and eaten on that occasion.

The return of the evangelists and their welcome were owing to the following cause: Soon after the native teachers had been driven away, an epidemic scourge of



A Royal Letter: Niue.



An Envelope: Savage Island.

Bread-fruit

Natives, Rarotonga.

sickness (probably cholera; it included dysentery, hitherto unknown) set in, and hundreds of the islanders died. Some prophet arose and told the people that at Rarotonga where Christianity had taken root all was well, but that the refusal of the Mangaians to hear about the new strong gods of the white man was the origin of the terrible disease that was devouring them wholesale. His hearers became frightened, and sent across to Rarotonga to invite the missionaries to return. This request was acceded to, and Christianity became the religion of Mangaia. While Dr. W. Wyatt Gill was the resident minister his great goodness and lovable disposition won countless adherents and converts. How he understood the character of the people is shown even by the sympathy that alone could have enabled him to gather the religious and traditional stories which, by his books, "Myths and Songs of the South Pacific," "Life in the Southern Isles," &c., have made him famous among ethnologists. Others, however, succeeded him, and, if the stories current among white settlers of the Pacific are true, a pandemonium of virtue set in upon Mangaia. One hears of it everywhere. The missionary rule became dominant without let or hindrance. Such stories as those told in Tonga about Baker's rule are weak as water compared with the tales of the state of affairs in Mangaia. The missionaries obtained influence over the Arikis, the ruling princes, and Christianity became fashionable; but among a people so independent, so warlike, so devoted to the old religion, conversion was by no means universal.

The Church party set up a Church police; every male communicant became a policeman, and their conduct was marked by the fanaticism of the newly converted as well as by the fierceness of their race. This was stimulated by the fact that the police shared the fines, a "payment by results" that brought an eye to every peep-hole and a spy sneaking round every door. Worse remained, for this police, going from bad to worse, levied blackmail, and carried off innocent women and men to gaol, there to be tortured till confession was wrung from

them as to immoralities, crimes, &c., they had never committed. This can hardly be believed by Christian people in other lands; but, alas! there is only too much evidence of its truth. The jurisprudence was most amusing, for, amongst a people practically destitute of property and ignorant of ordinary crime, sexual offences and neglect of Church duties were almost the only faults possible to censure. Upon these the lynx-eye of the Church policeman, as he prowled about dwellings at night, had to be fixed, and, if not found, to be invented, and proved by confessions extracted at the calaboose under the lash. Luckily, this is now a thing of the past, but how recently may be read by those who like to ascertain what happened even while Mr. Moss, the late British Resident, was in the Cook Islands, and what enormities his rule interfered with. Read the laws of Mangaia issued by Colonel Gudgeon in 1899, in which it is stated,—

> From and after the passing of this Act, it shall not be lawful to prosecute any person for any one of the following acts:—
>
> (*a*.) Consulting a sorcerer.
> (*b*.) Being pregnant as an unmarried woman.
> (*c*.) Card playing.
> (*d*.) Placing one's arm round a woman even though the offender have no torch in the other hand.
> (*e*.) Trading with a European without permission.
> (*f*.) Tattooing or being tattooed.
> (*g*.) Going from one village to another on the Sabbath.
> (*h*.) Taking an unmarried woman inland.
> (*i*.) Crying over a dead woman even though not related to her.

If these be samples of the offences for which people were being prosecuted and punished up to last year, and which needed the present British Resident to repeal, what could have been the state of affairs a few years ago when the rule of Christian (?) nobles was paramount? Surely the former expression "a pandemonium of virtue" was justifiable.

How did this despotism end? In a laughable manner; the tyranny died in bathos. It was not possible to be anything else but religious; the prosecution was too intense and the profession of piety too profitable. It was better to be the hunter than the hunted; better for a

Mrs. Seddon and the Queen, Rarotonga.

man to be the flogger than the floggee; better for a girl to be in the Bible-class than hung up by the toes in the calaboose. So the men nearly all became policemen; fines grew scarce, and one pious deacon had to spy on another to bring grist to the mill. "Dog ate dog" till none remained, and the Church militant became the Church triumphant in peace and prosperity, as at this hour.

Rarotonga suffered almost as greatly. In a Government report presented by Mr. F. J. Moss, the late British Resident, in 1894, he says, speaking of the missionaries: "They formed a code of laws, but did not attempt to embody in them any of the Maori usages with reference to land or inheritance. The new code related to persons, and chiefly to moral offences or breaches of the Church law. A Judge was appointed for each division of the island, and trial by jury decreed; but, so far as I can learn, never carried out. The Judges were assisted by a numerous body of police appointed by the Ariki, enrolled in the records of the Church, and consisting only of Church members. This police, irresponsible and under no direct control, incessantly spied upon and harassed the people. The fines that they could extract from delinquents formed their sole pay, and were divided at stated intervals between the Ariki, the Judge, and the police. As an episode of that time, Mana-Rangi, one of the most respected and staunch supporters of the Church throughout his life, assured me that the revolt of the people of which we read—the repeated burnings of the house of Tupe, the Judge, and the determined efforts to revert to heathenism—were only caused by the brutality with which the new laws were enforced by the Judge and the police. The most severe public floggings and confinement in wells dug in the ground were common punishments for offences which the new law had created, but which public sentiment had long regarded as no offences at all."

Let us be just. Wherever we went in the Pacific we saw a kindly, courteous, gentle people, a religious and orderly people, a credit to the missionaries and teachers

who labour among them. They are, too, an *innocent* people, if one uses the word as people of the world use it, and not in its child-sense. They are not, of course, ignorant of evil, but their lives compare favourably with those of any community on earth. People who know London and Paris, New York and Port Said, will allow that the islanders, in their simple, harmless lives are perfectly innocent compared with tens of thousands in great cities of modern times. Praise be to the missionaries for much of this. Many of these islands, like those of Fiji, Mangaia, and New Zealand, were hateful dens of bloodshed and horror till fearless apostles of the Gospel took their lives in their hands, and brought about a better condition of things. That the people are what we found them to-day is owing much to missionary rule. Let us not, however, tell lies that good may come. Here and there in the Pacific the rule of the Christian minister, through his abject tools the leading chiefs, became the cruellest yoke that can be conceived. The stern sway of "blood and iron" never galled more than that carried out by the spy-policeman of the Church in the "Isles of Eden." Perhaps, however, like the shocking events of which we read in the history of our own European States, the evil time was necessary to bring modern and improved conditions. Those conditions are now in many ways admirable in Polynesia, and we can well trust those clergymen and teachers who spend their lives in these lonely places that they will continue to do their good work till the faults of their predecessors are forgotten, and the past buried "full fathom five."

Mr. Seddon, with Colonel Gudgeon and Mr. Goodwin, made a visit to the house of the Ariki, who is called by visitors "King John"—his name being, in full, "John Trego." Who the original Trego was could not be ascertained: "John Trego" he had been christened, and native name apparently he had none. He is really only a Regent, for his father Numangatini, the late King, in his old age married a second wife, of whom John is the offspring. Numangatini's first wife bore him a son named

British Residency, Rarotonga.

Native House, Papua, Rarotonga.

Mission House, Mangaia.

The principal Ariki with his Wife, Mangaia.

Davida, who died comparatively young, and it is Noroa, the son of Davida, who is the true heir of power. John and his wife Kopapakino, with Noroa and his wife, appear here photographed together in a group. Of Numangatini in his old age there is a curious tale, to be presently related. Besides these nobles there are in Mangaia six hereditary governors of districts, and these are at present as follows :—

Turoa is governor of Oneroa (Vaenga).
Atatoa is governor of Keia.
Aramaomao is governor of Vitati.
Ngarieu-iti is governor of Tamarua.
Waipo-iti is governor of Ivirua.
Rimatai is governor of Karanga.

Since the British Resident has had power in the island group the power of the chiefs has been much diminished, but is by no means ended. Mangaia sends three members to the Cook Islands Parliament—one for Oneroa, one for Ivirua, and the other for Tamarua.

When the principal persons had assembled and greeted the New Zealand Premier, assuring him of their pleasure in receiving his visit, Mr. Seddon made a speech in reply to the congratulations. He said that more than twenty-five years ago he had discussed with Sir George Grey the future of these islands. From that time till now he had never the opportunity to come and visit them, and that he was now able to do so gave him deep gratification. He represented the largest population of Polynesians now existing, that of New Zealand, and therefore was deeply interested in the welfare of the race. Mr. Seddon then presented a Union Jack to the Arikis, who thanked him warmly, and again expressed their pleasure with the visit. The proceedings then took a curious turn. Colonel Gudgeon, as Judge of the High Court, held a session on the verandah of King John's house for the sake of trying a young man who was accused of " breaking and entering " —a rare offence here. The criminal, whose outward demeanour was of the quietest nature, but who, to a close

observer, was more nervous than he thought he showed, pleaded guilty. The Judge, after taking evidence as to character, &c., said, "You have admitted committing a very serious offence, and one seldom occurring in the Cook Islands. You have brought discredit on yourself, on your people, and on this island; and you will now pay a visit to another island, upon which you have no friends, and will have to work hard." The culprit was then sentenced to six months' imprisonment on the Island of Manuae, one of the Hervey Islands. In extenuation we were told that, as often happens, there was a woman at the bottom of it. A trader had imported some ladies' patent-leather boots of fashionable Parisian or American style, with silver buckles in front. Several of the young islanders whose means permitted had bought and presented their lady-loves with boots. The sweetheart of the prisoner had said, "Why don't you get me a pair?" So, having no means, he had gone to the store when the owner was asleep and when bats keep vigil, was caught in the act, owned up like a man, and had to do penance. The visitors asked if there was no Probation Act? but Judge Gudgeon said "No." "Seeing," said one of the visitors, "that he did not, like Adam, give the girl away by saying 'The woman tempted me,' can't he be fined? We will pay the fine." "No," said the Judge; "nothing but deportation will meet the case." Then the prisoner was told to go and say good-bye to his friends and to be down to the boat at three o'clock. There was no attempt at escape. The Native went away home, some distance away, and when next seen he was running hard to the boat, being a little behind time—such is the native respect for the law. Meanwhile, the cause of this trouble has to wait for her boots, which the swain has promised to bring on his return from Rarotonga.

The Cook Group is sometimes on old maps called the Hervey Islands, but mistakenly, as these are really two small islands within the Cook Group. Manuae is used as a kind of penal settlement for natives; the "hard

A Queen on each Side, Mangaia.

labour" is not of a very trying character, consisting mostly in coconut-tree tending, road-making, &c., and is really more exile than anything else.

Mr. Cullen invited the party to lunch, and afterwards showed his visitors the most notable places, the church, schools, &c. This took up most of the short time remaining in this very interesting island, for embarkation and the return crossing of the formidable reef had to be considered. The people still crowded round their guests and about the point of departure, and many curious facts were obtained by inquiry. The principal product is copra, for although cotton was tried it had to be given up as non-payable. Coffee, however, grows well, and Mangaian coffee has a good name in trade reports; tobacco is also a productive crop. Bananas, oranges, and pine-apples grow abundantly. Taro is the staple food product, but yams yield well, and kumara (here called *kuara*) or sweet-potato, extra well. Tea has been tried, but so long as the chiefs have the power of *rahui* (a form of *tapu*, "prohibition") this kind of precarious crop will never become of value. Great efforts have been made to keep European traders out of the island, partly perhaps from fear of loose morals being inculcated, and partly from desire to make trade a monopoly. Land is never parted with either by sale or lease; even the land on which the mission stands is only held by life-tenancy. Land belongs to the tribe; but every child born, whether legitimate or illegitimate, is apportioned its part of the tribal land, and this is added to that which is held by its parents, or, if illegitimate, by its mother. In fact, in all that relates to children great care and foresight marks the Mangaian outlook. In old days any child or even grown-up person in whom disease that might become hereditary appeared was "put away." The males were all circumcised, not at birth but at puberty. The result of the extra care of children is that they are in Mangaia relatively three children more to a family than in the other islands, and families of fourteen and fifteen in number are not uncommon.

The time came, as the sun descended, when the return passage to the ship had to be attempted. Bidding farewell to Mr. and Mrs. Cullen and to the crowding natives, the large outrigged canoe began its reef-crossings. These were easier now, for the tide was high and the lagoon inside the reef full of deep water, if we compare it with its condition when we landed. Out went the canoe to the ringed wall of the reef to wait for a roller that would break gently. At last the time came, there was a rush of foam around the gunwale, and away went the frail craft sliding out to sea on the "drawback" of the great wave. A gliding rush downwards and outwards—up towered a green hill of water high and higher above the bow, but its crest broke not, and swiftly, buoyantly, the canoe seemed caught up to meet it. The paddles flashed to the roaring cry of the native boatmen as they drove their little vessel over the dark-green summit of the wave. The danger was passed; it lay in the chance of the roller curling over before it touched the coral wall. Outside, the surf-boat of the steamer was waiting to receive its human freight, which when transferred allowed the canoe to return for more. At last all were safely brought to the steamer's side—to the steamer that was beginning to feel like "home," after these vagrant and exciting trips on shore. Seaward turned the bow of the "Tutanekai," and Mangaia lessened as the course was turned for Aitutaki.

Among these islands one hears queer and startling stories of old days, and sometimes of times not very long ago. Not only was the reign of law subject to interpretation by men of different flags, by native rulers, and by eccentric persons who disclaimed any nationality, but whatever power of keeping order was in being for any one place it scarcely existed "outside the reef." If "one half the world doesn't know how the other half lives," this saying may be divided infinitesimally for the South Seas, where one island does not know—and probably does not care—what is going on in the next. Hence the law of the strongest often had practical examples, sometimes of a shocking, and sometimes of a ludicrous character. It is

Colonel Gudgeon's Court, Mangaia.

Fruit presented to Mr. Seddon, Mangaia.

Mission Workshop, Mangaia.

King and Queen of Mangaia and Mr. Seddon.

Inside the Reef, Mangaia.

said that some fifteen years ago a leper Chinaman wished to go from Atiu (one of the Cook Islands) to Rarotonga in the schooner "Atlantic." He was declined as a passenger, and it was supposed that he had accepted his refusal and given up the idea of going. However, on the vessel's hatches being opened at Rarotonga the leper crawled out from among the copra, exclaiming "Too muchee hungly!" He remained in Rarotonga some time, when one of his countrymen—whose name was given and who is well known—after conference with those of other nationality and who held extreme views on drastic health and quarantine laws, thought that it would be well for the community if his esteemed compatriot should disappear. He therefore enlisted the sympathies of two Rarotongan natives, and having filled them well up with "square gin," expounded to them the curious ethnological fact that, in China, to cure lepers they always buried the afflicted person alive. He also persuaded them that if they would undertake to carry out this national custom in regard to the Chinese gentleman from Atiu they should not only have the rest of the case of gin for themselves, but would perform a noble action in relieving their own countrymen from the possibility of the dreadful contagion. The Rarotongans were equal to the occasion. They immediately proceeded to the house of the sick man, put him into a corn-sack, and carried him off. At first the poor wretch thought it only a joke, and laughed immoderately at the trouble they were taking to carry him about. When, however, a deep hole was dug, and he was placed in it, he shrieked for mercy, but nothing disturbed the even tenor of his captors' way. He was buried, and it was some time after before the affair leaked out. An inquiry was held by the native officials, but it only resulted in a verdict of "Justifiable homicide," the opinion being expressed that he could not have lived long, that death was bound to eventuate sooner or later, and, being sooner, it would not bring suffering and death to others from the same terrible and incurable disease. It has had one effect, namely, that the Chinese are not numerous at the Cook Group.

Mention was made by several persons in conversation of Numangatini, the old King of Mangaia (father of the present "King John"), who was represented as not only having lived to a most advanced age—ninety-eight years—but as having had three sets of teeth, the last set being cut when he was ninety years old! The statement was received with some incredulity by the visitors, who held it as one of the popular fallacies which sometimes gain such wide circulation. Numangatini's likeness is hanging in the house of his son at Mangaia, and bears a curious resemblance to Mr. John Plimmer, sometimes called in New Zealand "the father of Wellington." Referring to this King of Mangaia, the following anecdote was told: An old ship-trader, Captain John Ellicott, who was an Englishman by birth and ultra-American by preference and adoption, used to visit Mangaia with his vessel at times. Such visits were reasons for keeping away resident traders from the island, as the ship-dues added to the nobles' exchequer. On one occasion the captain's keen business-eye noted that Numangatini was getting very old—indeed, seemed in the last stage of decrepitude and with only a week or two's life left in him—so he said to himself, "Old man, there will be a big funeral feast and wailing (*tangi*) for you directly; hundreds of people will come to it and wear mourning, white-man fashion, for the dead king." So he lifted anchor and sailed his best for Tahiti. There he bought up thousands of yards of black print, and with his "spec" hurried back to Mangaia. When he returned he found, to his horror, that Numangatini had started on a new lease of life. "He had been only cutting his teeth!" said the deceived sailor sadly, when relating the tale long afterwards; "Not only did the old chief refuse to die himself, but there wasn't a single solitary person of consequence died on that island for months and years. I carted that accursed black print about with me till I wished that I had never been born." One feels for the honest trader treated so treacherously, but it adds to the evidence about those teeth. Poor old Ellicott died at

Coral Reef, Mangaia: The "Tutanekai" in the Distance.

Porapora about five years ago. *Apropos* of Numangatini's name—one not easy to pronounce—one hears sometimes among sailors and traders in the Islands as bad attempts at pronunciation of native names as in New Zealand, where, in the mouth of "Tommy Atkins," Ngaruawahia became "Naggery-waggery." Here we were informed that the Judge of the Native Court at Oneroa, whose name is Miringitangi, was known among his white brethren as "Mulligatawny."

The Island of Aitutaki.

The steamer, that had left Mangaia before dark, continued all night on its way to the north-west, and the next day before noon we were in sight of Aitutaki. The island itself lay, like most coral islands, a long low green mound against the horizon. Here, however, was brought to our senses some notion of the vast scale, the far-reaching spaces of the ringed-island system. "See," said Mr. Goodwin (the interpreter), "that large island to the right —and again that other, miles away; and beyond that another, looking almost as we should say of a ship, 'hull-down.' Now look away to the left, and note the island there. Well, all those islands stand upon the great coral ring that encloses Aitutaki." Truly a vast and magnificent girdle. Here were we treated to a sight acknowledged by all who saw it to be the finest and most impressive of the voyage. As we neared the tiny *ava,* or mouth of the reef entrance, we could see the mighty opaque rollers miles long lift themselves one by one from the blue plain of ocean to thunder in masses of dazzling foam on to the solid wall of coral, and pour huge cascades of creamy water over into the bright green shallows of the broad lagoon. The thought impresses us, if we consider that those wave-forces have been beating on the living coral-wall through calm and storm, night and day, for centuries. And how inadequate does the small soft coral polyp seem to be as a resisting power! If any one wishes for an ideal life of noise and tumult, let him wish to be a coral insect, for ever surrounded with the roaring,

rushing, heaving, battering-ram of the waves. Yet the little speck of jelly goes on placidly amid the liquid excitement of its environment, and builds up the great reef to mock the sea and break its noisy power.

This lagoon is in many places only 2 ft. or 3 ft. deep, though, of course, there is a difference in depth as the tide rises and falls. We had heard already of the famous shark-fishing of Aitutaki, where sharks are caught by their tails. At first we thought it a "traveller's yarn," but the evidence was both trustworthy and emphatic. It appears that in summer the shallow waters of this wide lagoon grow hot under the tropical sun, and the sharks do not care in the day-time to move about in the fierce light and heat. They go over to the inside wall of the reef, where the water is deeper and refreshed continuously from the deep sea outside. In the coral reef are shallow caverns, and in the comparative darkness of these shelters the shark sleeps all day, with his head in close to the cool rock-wall and his tail out. The shark-fishers in their canoes noiselessly paddle along the inside edge of the reef, and, when a tail is seen through the clear water, a diver slips gently overboard, and passes a running noose over the tail. At a signal the rope with the noose is tightened, and Master Jack hauled out from his retreat, to be battered on the head with a club till reasonably quiet. Aitutaki lagoon is also a great place for turtle fishing. In its shallow waters the animal can be chased without it getting a chance to sink into deep water on becoming alarmed. They are hunted by the natives in canoes until the victims are exhausted, and are then easily captured. All through the islands turtle-eggs are valued as food, and when they are left to be hatched, naturally the young turtles have many foes—birds, fish, &c.—all greedily intercepting and devouring the helpless little creatures. The mother turtle never looks after the safety of her offspring; she considers that she has done sufficient if she lays the eggs and leaves the sun to hatch them. This neglect of hers is so well known that in Rarotonga it has engendered a taunting proverb, "children of the turtle" (*anau a onu*), said of the infants of a careless mother.

Royalty at Mangaia: King and Queen, Ariki and Wife.

Group of Natives Aitutaki.

Rev Mr. Lawrence and Family Aitutaki

Curiosity satisfied about Cameras, Aitutaki

Arrival at Aitutaki.

When we arrived, the sea-water was rushing out of the narrow entrance with a tide-rip that looked dangerous, and certainly was a hard place to get through. High and dry on the reef to the left-hand side as we faced the entrance a large schooner was lying stranded. It was the hapless "Upoko Enua," a vessel owned by some of the native chiefs. Strong hopes were still entertained as to the possibilities of getting her off, as the hull was quite sound. A very flimsy erection of poles, &c., to act as a windlass, appeared on the reef to one side of the schooner, and it seemed quite inadequate to the work of moving so heavy a mass, but we were told that by its aid the vessel had already been shifted a considerable distance, and that it was much more effective than it appeared to be. We anchored outside about 1.30 p.m., and a pilot-boat came out, in the stern of which was seated Mr. Large, who is at once the Postmaster, Health Officer, Customs Officer, &c., of Aitutaki. He offered to pilot us in if we would follow him, so the steam-launch, towing the surf-boat full of passengers, faced the difficulties of the entrance. These consisted in the sea-break meeting an outward rush of water over a very shallow bottom with a tortuous channel, there only being 3 ft. or 4 ft. of water at the deepest part. However, the danger was soon past, and the boats zigzagged across the uneven surface of the lagoon-floor towards the island. A causeway of coral-rock has been run out a hundred yards from shore, and as the boats touched it the natives came down to welcome us. With them came the Rev. Mr. Lawrence, the resident missionary, who gave us kindly greeting, and led us up to his house, which stands some quarter of a mile back from the water.

The Premier found some difficulty in reaching the mission-house, as his foot, which had been troublesome for some days, was then giving him much pain, but he persevered in getting along till the settlement was reached. He then rested in the grateful coolness of a large room, Colonel Gudgeon and he conversing

with the natives through the medium of Mr. Goodwin. The visitors dispersed and took walks about the place; a long street bordered with native dwellings stretching under the coco-palms for some distance. The loud beatings of the drum attracted many to see the native dance which was being performed for the benefit of the guests. The dance very much resembled the Samoan dance got up for our edification in Levuka, and consisted mostly of posture-dancing by two or three leading ladies to the chanting and hand beatings of a seated chorus. The scene, brightened by the vivid dresses and merry laughter of the women dancers, was a very pretty and attractive one, and was made infinitely amusing by the efforts of the *prima ballerina* to drag her male visitors into taking part in the proceedings, some yielding easily to her charms, while others made frantic efforts to escape too great prominence. These shyer ones were captured by their friends, and despite their struggles had to do their part in the performance, amid shrieks of laughter both from the white guests and the natives themselves. As an unrehearsed spectacle it was one not to be soon forgotten. Many of the Aitutaki people accompanied their new friends, decorated them with wreaths, garlands, &c., which would seem ridiculous in any place except among the flower-decked dwellers of the South Sea Islands. The islanders had a few curios for sale, fans, shells, &c., but nothing so good in value or so extensive in variety as those in Savage Island.

Aitutaki never suffered so much as the other islands did under the church-police system. Long before the modern reforms had relaxed the ecclesiastical tyranny in the other islands, the milder rule of Mr. Lawrence had mollified the evils of the system, and neither the terrorism nor the cruelties which obtained in Rarotonga and in Mangaia had long existence here.

The Premier had a conversation with Mrs. Lawrence for some time; that lady being in delicate health was unequal to the task of personally escorting the other ladies about the place. He then desired the natives to

Natives of Aitutaki

assemble, that he might say a few words to them before leaving. They gathered in a large crowd, seated on the ground in a semicircle about the verandah. Mr. Seddon said,—

Salutations to all assembled here. My heart goes out to you. I have long heard of you, and have often desired to meet you, and to-day we meet. For many years I have taken a deep interest in those here of the native race living upon the islands in the Pacific. One of your greatest friends has passed away, but so long as he lived he took a deep interest in your welfare: I allude to the late Sir George Grey. There is also another name which should not be forgotten, and one which I trust will ever be kept green in your memory: I allude to the late Honourable John Ballance, because your kindred in New Zealand and yourselves in these islands always had a friend in him. He was one who ever desired to see to the wants and the well-being of the Native race. It is a long time now since I first heard of you, since I first commenced to take an interest in your welfare,—nearly twenty-five years. I often wished to see you. To-day the long-wished-for pleasure has been accomplished, and we meet. When looking at you here and speaking to you, it reminds me of your kindred in New Zealand. It simply means a type of various meetings of a similar character in New Zealand, with the same faces and the same attributes; proving clearly and distinctly that the Maoris in New Zealand are of the same kindred as yourselves. Like your kindred across the water, the Maoris of New Zealand, you are ever hospitable. An innocent people, and, taken in the right way, cared for, and properly governed, there is no reason why you should not be the happiest of Her Majesty's subjects. Like the Maoris, I am afraid that you copy our vices. When they come to you, you really do not know the evil which is coming upon you, but some day or another drop into these vices. My advice to you is, assimilate rather our virtues, and practise them. There is one thing that I desire to impress upon you: and that is, utilise the good things which God has given you in abundance. Remember the words of the celebrated Dr. Watts, of whom you have all, no doubt, read and heard: "Satan finds some mischief still for idle hands to do." Those who do not duly use and take advantage of the good things provided for them by a wise and good Creator are bound to fall upon evil ways.

I was very pleased to-day to read of the produce that you had exported. The sending away of produce means that wealth accrues and good things come back to you, and for which you are able to pay. The more produce, the greater

pleasures and the greater comfort for you. I hope to hear from your missionary and from Colonel Gudgeon, British Resident at Rarotonga, and those who are with you as years go on, that you mean to work and do your best to cultivate your lands and become wealthy. Your children would then be in a better position than they are now, and would be a blessing to their parents. The parents of Europeans and natives all like to see their children enjoy themselves, and to see them provided for. I should also like to know and hear that you are increasing in numbers. There are too many little ones dying off, which is causing anxiety to the parents and great suffering. I would like to see an increase in the population of your islands, and, if it is possible to mitigate this loss, the Government of which I am the head will be happy to help Colonel Gudgeon and those intrusted with your care in this direction. When at Mangaia I noticed that there were more children there, in comparison to the population, than you have here. There is just a possibility that this difficulty may be grappled with and overcome. There is no laxity on the part of the missionaries who labour with you, and who are so self-sacrificing in their efforts to see to your well-being and spiritual welfare, to help you by their advice in this respect. I am sure there is nothing wanting on their part. You belong to the British Empire — this island is annexed to Great Britain—and it is pleasing to me to note that that which was prophesied has not come to pass, but, on the contrary, that it has proved a benefit which is apparent wherever British rule, justice, freedom, and goodwill exists.

You will be pleased to know that a protectorate has been established over the Island of Niue, Mr. Basil Home Thomson, Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary, having proclaimed that island to be under British protection last week; also, that a protectorate has been proclaimed over Tonga, in the Friendly Islands, which is now under British protection; so that you see other islands are coming under the protection of the British Crown the same as you did. Ultimately—no doubt it is only a question of time—the whole of these islands will be protected by Great Britain. Now, there is one way in which you people here can be assisted, and it can be done with respect to all the islands, and that is by some Government—it may be the Government of New Zealand, but some one—to do that which is necessary to insure a reduction in the passenger-fares and a reduction in the freights charged by the owners of steamers trading to the Islands, so that you may get your produce to market at reasonable rates. It is only a few days from here to New Zealand, but the freights are so high that you are unable to send your produce there. The profits are all eaten up in freight. What is wanted for

Natives of Aitutaki

Native Dance, Rarotonga.

Queen and Prince Consort, Rarotonga.

The Queen and the Captain, Rarotonga.

Queen Makea, Arikis, and Visitors, Rarotonga.

all these islands is to have regular and frequent communication and a reduction in the freights and passenger-fares.

I am sorry that my stay with you is so short, but I look forward to again visiting you, and you may rest assured that although absent from you, you will not be forgotten, and the kind hospitality which has been showered upon us will ever be remembered with pleasure. Now, as a reminder and to let the world know that you exist, and that you have this beautiful island and these nice buildings, photographs have been taken which will be completed in New Zealand and reproduced in the pictorial journals of that colony. Copies of these papers will be sent to you, and will enable you to know that we have been making known your existence to the world. Colonel Gudgeon and Mr. Lawrence will get copies for distribution. I am sure this will create a favourable impression in our colony and also at Home. I have been making inquiries, and am glad to find that there is very little crime on your island—no serious crime, at any rate. I allude to crime as against the laws of man; but can the same be said in respect to breakers of the laws of our Creator? As I shall, I hope, from time to time, be furnished by Colonel Gudgeon with information as to your earthly well-being, I also hope I shall be furnished by the Reverend Mr. Lawrence with information as to your moral and general behaviour and spiritual welfare. I impress upon you to be good. Those who are good and those who obey the laws of our Creator prosper; their health is good, and comforts come to them. If, on the other hand, you disobey these laws, you are punished; suffering and anguish overtake you. I do hope and trust that as a people you may improve, and that when my next visit takes place I may find that you have prospered and that every blessing has fallen upon you. I must now say adieu. It is always painful to say good-bye, and for friends to part, but I trust that the acquaintance begun to-day will ripen into a friendship which will last as long as life itself. Salutations to one and all. Aroha, aroha, aroha!

The natives gave the Premier three cheers, and fixed up a kind of palanquin-chair, in which he was carried down to the landing-place so as to ease the lame foot.

Aitutaki is a very beautiful and fertile island. It is about eighteen miles in circumference, and, although in no place higher than 360 ft., may be considered generally as hilly. It is well-wooded; the appearance of the cattle we saw, sleek and well fed, speaks highly for the quality of the pasturage. Aitutaki was discovered by the ill-fated Captain Bligh, of the "Bounty," a few days before the

famous mutiny. It was at the time of our visit under the British flag, notwithstanding some doubts as to when annexation took place, thus in some way differing from the other Cook Islands. The settlement at which we landed, Arutunga, is on the west side of the island, and is the principal village. The church and school-house at this place are large white spacious buildings, whose fine appearance is most creditable both to the natives and the London Missionary Society. Cotton and coffee have been grown, but they do not appear to have been favoured greatly, and the staple crop for export is copra. The population numbers about fifteen hundred, but will soon be less unless they pay more attention to the health of their youngsters, who, as Mr. Seddon had remarked, were conspicuous by their absence. The people themselves were exceedingly courteous and amiable; full of fun and laughter. They loaded the returning boats with presents of fruit and vegetables for the Premier and Mrs. Seddon. They were very pleased to see Colonel Gudgeon, the British Resident, among them again, and, indeed, everywhere in the group, he is evidently regarded with high respect and esteem. His firm character and deep sympathy with Polynesians everywhere peculiarly fits him for the unique and very responsible position he holds as at once the representative of Britain and the friend of the native people. The boats were once more filled with passengers, and, with farewells to kind Mr. Lawrence and our native friends, we pushed off from the end of the causeway, the end of which was one densely-packed mass of people waving adieux. Along the devious path of the lagoon channel to the entrance, bumping here and there in its shallow waters in spite of the careful pilotage of Mr. Large's boat, at dusk we again shot through the *ava* (reef mouth) and regained the steamer.

Many of the natives came on board for medicine from Dr. Teare, who was fairly puzzled by the number and nature of their ailments to be prescribed for. None of the patients were present, but their friends described their maladies very pathetically. One old fellow had a son John; medicine

Principal Arikis of Rarotonga.

was wanted for John's rheumatism; more for the next son, who apparently had colic; more for another son, evidently with some lung-complaint; more for the last son, who might by the described symptoms have had bronchitis, complicated with elephantiasis. Then, his daughter had certainly "all diseases except housemaid's-knee," and another daughter—but here our doctor glanced pathetically at his failing medicine-chest, and ordered the old glutton over the side. All the natives wanted medicine, and several amateur dispensers tried their hand, one lady had a large bottle of Apenta water, and this was liberally distributed in a wine-glass as prescribed. The look on some of the faces of the natives after taking the Apenta cure would have made the fortune of any amateur photographer who had the good fortune of having his kodak at work. Still, like Oliver Twist, they wanted more, and it is quite true there is no accounting for taste. As the boat disappeared in the darkness the last we heard of Aitutaki voices was a native screech, "Send medicine! my son John!" After the vessel was under way, some of the uncertificated dispensers inquired what the effects would be of some of the prescribed medicine. "Nil," said the doctor; "so long as they do not swallow the bottles. My great fear was that they would commandeer the medicine-chest."

Southward ho! for Rarotonga the fair. Through the night throbbed the engines, unheeded by tired sleepers, and at dawn the peak of Ikurangi lifted from the sea, only, however, to be covered instantly by heavy rain-clouds, for we had brought the wrong wind back with us, of course —the wind and the s.s. "Tutanekai" had long been "out of friends," as children say.

Return to Rarotonga.

A heavy sea was setting in on the reef, and the rain began falling in torrents. Colonel Gudgeon and his family went ashore in the launch, hidden and revealed in the great rolling swell, and were watched with anxiety till they made a safe landing. The rain continued till

noon. It was very hot, damp, and disagreeable on board, for the coal was being shifted, and dirt was added to other unpleasant things. The Premier decided to postpone the official landing on account of the weather. The sky cleared, and the sea went down about lunch-time as the wind shifted, and in the afternoon several of the passengers went ashore, some for a walk, some for a drive, but the Premier remained on board giving his foot all the rest possible. After dark a party gathered at the Residency for music, &c., while others spent a quiet evening on board. On shore the drums of the dance were beating for hours, the dancers evidently practising for next day, as the inhabitants of different villages came in for the festival.

Before proceeding to relate the political proceedings, it may be thought desirable to preface them by a short description of the social ranks, &c., and constitution of Tumute-varo-varo, as Rarotonga was called in ancient times. The families are united in a tribe known as Ngati-so-and-so, to the Ngati being affixed the name of the ancestral head of that branch, just as in New Zealand we speak of the Ngatimaniapoto, "descendants of Maniapoto," &c. These Ngati are joined together in a *vaka* ("canoe"), as it is called, the chief of this larger division being an Ariki or hereditary prince. There are three of these *vaka* in Rarotonga: The men and women take rank in five classes, viz.:—

1. The Ariki.

2. The Mataiapo, or nobles. They exactly fulfil the idea of feudal nobles, deriving their position through tenure of land held from time immemorial.

3. The Rangatira: These are tenant-nobles, occupying a position of honour, but liable to a call for war or other public service from the lords whose land they occupy.

4. Komono: These are cadets of great families, or their relatives. A *komono* may be a second son of a Rangatira by a second wife, &c.

5. Unga: These are the common people, holding their land by sufferance. They are not slaves, but just "the masses."

Native Dance, Palace Grounds, Rarotonga.

With Royalty in the Palace Grounds, Rarotonga.

Queen Makea and Party in the Palace Grounds, Rarotonga.

Lieutenant-Colonel Gudgeon and Family, Rarotonga.

Dance in Palace Grounds, Rarotonga.

The Council and Government are as follows: The House of the Arikis consists of all the Arikis of Rarotonga. The House of the People comprises twelve members: Of these, three are the Judges of Avarua, Arorangi, and Takitumu; three others are appointed yearly, one by the ruling Ariki of each district; the other six are elected annually, two from each of the three districts. All men and women over twenty-one years of age have the suffrage, including foreigners of more than twelve months' residence.

The morning of the next day, Saturday, broke beautifully clear and sunny. About 10 a.m. the "Tutanekai" party went ashore and proceeded to Queen Makea's residence. Mr. Seddon, with his private secretary, Mr. F. Andrews, and Colonel Gudgeon, were received by the Queen, the Tinomana, and by two of the Ariki (nobles), Ngamaru and Karika. Ngamaru is the Queen's husband. The three native ruling powers of Rarotonga are the Ariki (King or Queen), the Pa Ariki, and the Tinomana. The Tinomana at present is a lady, so that together with Makea two-thirds of the Court dignity is feminine. Mrs. Seddon and Mr. Tregear were also present during the interview. After the formal presentation to the Queen and nobles, Mr. Seddon proceeded to lay before the Rarotongan authorities certain propositions which he presented for their approval and concurrence.

1. A postal convention, by means of which New Zealand and Rarotonga could exchange postal-notes, money-orders, &c., in order to facilitate exchange, and make small commercial transactions much more easy than at present.

2. That Rarotonga should become the possessor of a small Government steamer, to ply between the islands of the Cook Group, or transport the produce of the natives to other ports. It was evident that there was a great loss to the inhabitants of the islands at present in the desultory and uncertain way in which the inter-island traffic was carried on by small sailing vessels. The difficulty of procuring such a vessel doubtless was that the revenue of the Cook

Islands Government only just sufficed to meet the present expenditure, and he (Mr. Seddon) proposed to show how it was possible for the difficulty to be met. It was probable, he believed, that the Colony of New Zealand would lend the money for a small steamer (to cost, say, £2,000) on the following conditions: The native Government to pay 5 per cent. interest and a sinking-fund premium, with insurance on the vessel, and security over her till the amount lent was paid off. Preference to be given to New Zealand goods and New Zealand trade — that is to say, if 100 tons awaited shipment, and there was only room for 50 tons, any New Zealand goods should have preference over those of shippers elsewhere. Otherwise the vessel to be under the complete and entire control of the Rarotongan Government.

3. That the Premier had noticed the very great drawbacks to trade and communication caused by bad landing-places. Notably at Mangaia and Aitutaki there were dangerous approaches, and these could be immensely improved if a small outlay was expended. The reef at Mangaia could be blown up, and the reef-entrance at Aitutaki greatly widened by the expenditure of a few hundredweights of dynamite. He proposed that the services of New Zealand officers acquainted with submarine mining should be lent for this purpose, and he would endeavour to see if this could not be done. The approach to the wharf at Rarotonga could also be greatly improved, if the knowledge of these experts could be devoted to the destruction of rocks situated dangerously near the landing-point.

4. Some effort should be made to replace the Chilian dollars now in circulation with British coin. It was evident that at present hundreds of pounds are lost by the natives in trade through having to deal with purchasers who pay them in coin of a debased currency. He (the Premier) had not yet thought out in detail how the dollar could be abolished, but possibly it could be arranged that a branch of the New Zealand Post-Office Savings-Bank could be established.

5. Mr. Seddon fully intended making an effort to establish an improved steam communication between Auckland and Rarotonga on a better basis. At present both freights and passage-fares were far too high, and he would do his best on his return to see that an alteration in this respect took place. Of course, he added, he was only making these proposals on his own initiative, but he had no doubt that his colleagues would indorse any reasonable offer made; and would endeavour to gain the concurrence of the Colonial Parliament to help them, which would be to the benefit of both New Zealand and the Islands.

The Premier then gave some practical advice to the Queen and her officers as to matters of internal administration to which attention should be at once directed. He instanced the good effect that would probably follow the offer of a bonus for tree-planting and improvement of landed property. In New Zealand land was let upon very low rentals from the Crown, but improvement clauses were inserted in the conditions, and an immense advance had been made in the acreage felled and grassed since those conditions had been made imperative in taking up landed property. He also advocated a law being passed to regulate house-building, compelling that the ground-floor should be a certain number of feet above the soil, as in this climate such a provision was absolutely necessary for the health of the inmates. Separate sleeping-rooms should also be insisted on to divide parents from growing boys and girls, and one sex from another.

Ngamaru replied for the Queen, and expressed the great pleasure he had in hearing the propositions made by Mr. Seddon. He thanked the New Zealand Premier for the interest he took in their affairs, and would proceed to lay the proposals at once before the Rarotongan Parliament for ratification. The interview over, a levee was held by Queen Makea, in which the visitors from the ship and many of the European residents of the place were presented to the Queen and notables. Having adjourned to the pleasant shade of the great trees in the park-like royal gardens, photos of groups were taken. Mr. Seddon

then addressed the assembled chiefs and people, repeating to them at length the proposals made by him to the Queen and the Arikis, explaining the reasons, and pointing out the necessity for efforts to be made to remove certain disabilities that at present hampered their commerce, and kept back their settlements from benefit and extension.

The following petition was presented to the Premier :—

Rarotonga, 9th June, 1900.

To the Right Hon. R. J. Seddon, P.C.,
Premier of New Zealand.

Sir,—

We, the undersigned, residents of Rarotonga, take great pleasure in welcoming you to the Cook Islands, and hope the rest and change will restore you to health and vigour after your arduous labours as Premier of New Zealand. Owing to the present anomalous relation of the Cook Islands Government to that of our fostering Government—namely, New Zealand, especially in regard to the independent and irresponsible character of our Courts of Justice, we feel insecure and dissatisfied with our present conditions. We were greatly pleased to read the newspaper report of your speech recently delivered in Wellington, in which you stated that your Government "was prepared to take the responsibility of extending the boundaries of New Zealand so as to include the Cook Islands." Since you have yourself thus suggested annexation, we are the more bold and happy to assure you that we believe no other solution of our difficulties will give us so much security and satisfaction, and that not only the white residents, but the natives also, will welcome the change which you suggest.

The petition was signed by some forty white residents.*

Mr. Seddon replied that such an important petition should go through the proper channels. He would hand it to the British Resident, and he had every hope that their grievances would be righted.

Presents of fine mats, &c., were formally made to the guests, the name of each guest being called out and the mat laid at his or her feet. When this ceremony had concluded, the deafening noise of approaching drums announced the approach of the dancers. These dancers had formed themselves into a procession of a very bright and picturesque character, their dresses being of vivid colours. Many of the girls were in white, but their sashes of

* See Appendix E.

A Picnic in the Forest, Rarotonga.

Nutting (Coco-nutting); Follow the Leader: Rarotonga.

Group at Miss Large's School, Rarotonga.

coloured silk, and the decorations of the hair made them very effective in the brilliant sunshine. They advanced very deliberately, moving in intricate figures slowly past each other with waving arms and curious postures. Entering slowly through the gateway in the stone walls which enclose the grounds, they formed up on an open space of green sward reserved for their performance. Here they divided into companies representing different districts or villages, each section evidently having tried to outvie the other in the beauty or queerness of their dresses. One peculiarly noticeable division had all its male dancers in scarlet coats, another, though in native dress, had girdles of a vivid purple. First one group and then another would dance to the music of singing voices, clapping hands, and thundering drums. The exhibition could scarcely be called graceful in any way. The men moved right and left, kicked high, turned half-somersaults on their hands, slapped their thighs, clapped hands, &c., &c.—all this with great agility and in perfect unison. The women wriggled their bodies about and moved a few steps backwards, sideway, or forwards, past each other, also marking the time perfectly with beating hands. The effect was more grotesque than beautiful, the only really admirable thing being the unity of voice and rhythmical movement. The dance, or series of dances, lasted for hours, and the visitors had perforce to withdraw at last to satisfy their hunger. A very excellent lunch in the European style had been provided in a room at the Queen's house, and the hospitality shown was gratefully acknowledged by the visitors.

After again watching the interminable dance, many of the "Tutanekai's" party, including the Premier, paid a visit to Tokovaive, which is the name of a place not far from the palace, and which was approached by a very pleasant walk among native houses and groves of bananas and oranges. At Tokovaive, in her beautiful garden, Mrs. Percy Brown dispensed afternoon tea to her visitors. This place alone would make one in love with Rarotonga. In one corner of the green lawn stands a tree famous for

its beauty, even in a land of lovely trees. It is called *Maupi*, and has a double stem which supports such a pyramid of verdure that it lives as an almost ideal shape in the memory. In pleasant chat with Mrs. Brown, who is a New Zealand lady, the time slipped away till dusk announced the hour of departure. Before going on board again, invitations were received for a dance to be held that evening in the Parliamentary Buildings. To this the European visitors and residents (some of the latter, with native wives and half-caste daughters), assembled about 8 o'clock, and found the whole vicinity crowded with Rarotongans, who had gathered to see the white people dance. Every door, every window, was occupied by a crowd of dark faces and gleaming eyes, and at one end of the room they sat closely on a bench against the wall. The evening was cool -- except for those dancing — the moonlight bright, and the air still. Those who shared the motion of the Waltz, and the wild romp of the Lancers, asserted it to be the most delightful of evenings, full of *verve* and spirit, in spite of the heat that kept fans playing everywhere. Even those who stood outside, or walked up and down the road in the "moonlight effect" of the clear beams falling through the palms on white dresses and picturesque dwellings, declared the whole enchanting. As it was Saturday night, the ball came to a close before midnight, and the revellers went down to the boats with song and chorus. Mr. Seddon was unable to be present that evening, his foot still requiring all the rest and attention he could give it.

The next day (Sunday), was our last in Rarotonga, for it had been decided that on Sunday night at 10 o'clock the anchor was to be weighed. According to a preconcerted arrangement, the visitors who had not been accommodated on the island went on shore, and found that through the kindness of the residents, furthered by the energy of Mr. Goodwin, horses and vehicles had been provided for a drive right round the island. The morning was bright and sunny, with only a few grey clouds artistically arranged for us on the summits of Ikurangi and Te

Maunga. At the Post Office we found a goodly array of carriages and horses. The steeds were not fiery in appearance; like most South Sea horses they were in poor condition, and their points were points that one could hang his hat on, but they were a hundred times better than they looked. Gamer animals one could not have wished for, and the pleasure they gave us would, if any of us could have spoken the equine language, have caused them to be presented with an address — they escaped this.

Away we went along the level road, a road as good as any road in New Zealand outside a town. The white coral seemed to bind well as road-metal, and except that some of the culverts were rather loose in structure and needed nerve to cross, the road would have been a credit to a Road Board. We passed village after village in the morning, mostly while the people were at church, so that we did not see much of the population. Churches in profusion, lofty white solid-looking churches with pointed windows. There is a war of sects here, and even a war of Sundays, the latter having arisen in the following manner: For years the missionaries, that is to say the island authorities, kept their Sunday on the same day as we do in New Zealand. Then the Roman Catholic priests (mostly from Tahiti and the eastern islands) said, "You are keeping the wrong day, and being in eastern longitude you should observe the eastern Sunday." Anything coming from such a source was opposed by the old order of Protestant missionaries, and they had power enough to keep the former Sunday in working order for many years. When Colonel Gudgeon arrived as British Resident he grew vexed at perseverance in such an anomaly, and a Bill was introduced into the Rarotongan Parliament to alter the day. A terrible theologico-political storm ensued, but after great excitement the Bill to alter the day passed by a majority of one. So, at the beginning of this year the day was changed, and Rarotonga keeps as Sunday the Monday of New Zealand. Of course, if we left Rarotonga on Monday and went eastward so that we could get round the world in one day we

should find it Monday when we got to New Zealand ; but this would not be the case if we went from Rarotonga to New Zealand by the western route. The confusion in the minds of the natives on this question is added to by the fact that the Seventh-day Adventists have gained a strong footing in Rarotonga of late years, and these declare that Sunday is not the Sabbath at all, but that Saturday is the only genuine rest day. Poor Rarotongans ! They have no Conciliation and Arbitration Act, so, to make sure, keep two days a week as Sundays, and then do not work on the other five ; evidently they can give their white brothers points on labour questions.

But, to our island road. A fairy road, a road through dreamland ! There is no other way of suggesting it to those who have not looked on its beauty. Now avenues of coco-palms ; now gardens of bananas and arrowroot ; sometimes deep shadow from the giant bread-fruit and utu trees, again the feathery foliage of the ironwoods, but always peeps through vistas of green shade at breaking waves on reef and shore to the left, towering pinnacles of rock to the right. There is a sense of largeness, of scope, of unbounded freedom. Even the leaves of the trees are immense. The breadfruit tree, a mountain of green light and shade, has its leaves (shaped almost like a giant hand), 2 ft. across ; the utu (*Barringtonia*) has its laurel-like leaf longer than the fingers can span. All the foliage of shrub and undergrowth glitters with points of light from glossy surfaces, and gives the shadows depth and darkness. Among the prettiest plants of Rarotonga is a mistletoe, having scarlet flowers succeeded by scarlet berries. It grows on lofty chestnut and other trees, and is called by the natives *pauma* ; its botanical name is *Loranthus insularum*. Near the village are plantations of bananas, taro, &c., always among the trees, however. Land must not be cleared here as in New Zealand, where the beautiful bush is ruthlessly hacked away till the valleys are left in grass and the hills in landslips, until one sees no tree but the newly-planted shadowless misery of the blue-gum. Here the banana must have shade as well as sun, so it is

An Ancient Tomb, Tonga.

Bouquets presented to Mrs. Seddon on her Son's Birthday, Suva.

View in Government House Grounds, Suva.

Street Scene, Suva.

On Guard, Government Buildings, Suva.

only the undergrowth that is cleared, while the larger trees are left standing, with the tender green fronds of banana and plantain reaching up to the forks of the branches and hiding the trunks.

The impression given the stranger was that the island was in a state of uncultivation—that which had been done not a hundredth part of what could be worked by able and energetic hands. This, without destroying the beauty, remember; he who plants a coco-palm, whether for making copra or anything else, adds to the loveliness of the world as well as to his banking account: the marriage of art and finance—ideal wedlock. The coco-palm sends up its crown of light leaves for 70 ft. or 80 ft. overhead, and these leaves, though they look light at such a height, are often 18 ft. long. In favourable positions for growth there are twenty nuts in a bunch, and from ten to fifteen bunches ripening at one time. The coco-palm grows in rich light soil of valleys, and in a belt round many of the islands, but will not grow on red-clay hill-sides like those of the interior of Mangaia. They will grow in the sea-sand right down to the salt water, and it is said that some of the "coco-nut milk," as we call the water in the nut, is sometimes quite salt and brackish if grown in the sea-sand. The young palms in good soil bear fruit in five years, in poor soil in seven years. They attain the age of one hundred and eighty or two hundred years in sheltered places, but in extreme old age bear no fruit. The timber is used in housebuilding and for other purposes; the leaves are plaited into mat-screens and used for the thatch of native dwellings. Fans, baskets, &c., are also made of the green leaflets, and the husk is used as sinnet, &c., the "coir" of our matting. When the lower part of the stem is exported to Europe as timber it is known as porcupine wood; it is very hard, and takes a high polish.

The ironwood trees must not be forgotten. The ironwood is called the *toa*; it is a *Casuarina*, and to be found generally only on the volcanic, not the coral, islands. Its wood is almost black, and hard as ebony; from it the

best native weapons were made, and its very name signifies "the warrior." Seen as we saw the tree along that coastal road it is indeed a beautiful object. Drooping like the weeping-willow, its swaying branches and hair-fine leaves are so delicate that they look more like a waving filmy veil drawn between the eyes and the blue heaven than the foliage of an earthly tree. For half a mile at a stretch its groves extended, and the foaming waters of the reef would be seen through this virginal veil of the woods. Even the merry talk of one's light-hearted companions could not destroy the sense of repose that breathed from sea to shore and from wood to mountain. Three thousand feet above us towered the pinnacle height of Ikurangi; towered indeed, for steep as the walls of a fortress rose its grey precipices, five hundred feet clear of verdure to the sky line. Range on range stood between us and the crowning peaks, but all green as emerald with dense forest and tangled shrubbery.

We rested the horses and obtained tea for the ladies at the bachelor establishment of Mr. Connell, whose brother was a well known engineer in the New Zealand Public Works Department, and who received the party with great hospitality and kindness. His home is called Totokoitu. Here for the first time we tasted orange-beer, a rather pleasant beverage, and one which the natives are said to relish too well. We drove on again for some miles till we reached a place eminently suitable for a picnic-lunch on the edge of the bush. Some of us wandered through the shrubs on the banks of a little stream, and enjoyed exploring the strange country. There is a fine spring of water on the central flat-topped mountain of Rarotonga called by the natives "The Mist." The water leaps over the precipice and becomes the source of many of the streams that bless the lower lands. On that finest of afternoons, soft and balmy as a warm day of New Zealand summer, the air was full of the scents of tropical verdure stealing across the fields. The island forest differs in this from that of our islands. As one pushes through the undergrowth in Rarotonga subtle odours rising from the bruised

At his Post," Presbyterian Church, Suva.

leaves affect the sense of smell, odours that seem compounded of lemons and musk, coco-nut oil and thyme. The woods were very still; there was an almost total absence of bird-life.

Fifty years ago the forest was full of feathered songsters and of birds which were good eating. The large native pigeons (*rupe*) were numerous, and would gather in hundreds to eat the yellow berries of the banyan-tree (*ao*), and the light-blue seeds of the karaka trees, but left these later on in the year for the honey in the golden-flowered *neinei*. Mount Karaunga on the south-east side of Rarotonga was an especial haunt of bird-hunters, and there with bird-lime, or slip-nooses, or light nets, great numbers would be captured. The *ioi*, a pigeon with dark-coloured plumage, was often caught with a slip-knot while seeking honey from the scarlet flowers of the coral-tree (*Erythrina*). After the *ioi* pigeon the existing Rarotongan newspaper, the "*Ioi karanga*," is named. Small birds were numerous and kept the taro plants free from caterpillars; afterwards it became almost impossible to grow taro on account of the insect pests which devoured the leaves. The *kakirori*, a brown bird resembling a sparrow but larger, was one of the most useful of these insectivorous birds, feeding entirely on caterpillars. Except for a few which may be living in the forest of the interior this bird is almost extinct. The reason for the birds disappearing is that the gun and the cat have nearly exterminated them, but cyclones have much to answer for. At one time, some years ago, there were cyclones for three successive seasons, and bird-life was desolated through the islands.

We passed many graves alongside the road, which, like the graves in Savage Island, were marked with huge masses of white concrete. They are very solid, but give one rather an impression of crushing the poor bodies underneath. Rarotongans used to believe that at Tuoro, on the western side of the island, the "setting-sun" side, of course, ghosts of the dead assembled to the "leaping place of souls" (*Reinga vairua*). The spirits from Avarua used

the common road to travel on, but those from Ngatangiia, on the other side of the island, had hard work crossing the ranges. There used to be a tree on the sandy beach at Nikao, known as the "Weeping Laurel" (*puka aueanga*), because the unhappy ghosts would there meet to bewail their fate. Then the spirit had to climb the branch of a *pua* (*Fagræa berteriana*) tree, and below this branch was a hole in which was set the net of the infernal deities for catching souls. If this net was got through there was another net set seaward, so that escape to the free ocean was almost impossible. The demons (*taae*) took the entangled ghosts out of the net and devoured them. Brave warriors who had died in battle went to a paradise in which the god Tiki acted the part of Odin, and welcomed the souls of those who—

> Amid the clang of shields and rush of spears,
> Beneath the deep eyes of the watchful gods,
> Drank the delirious wine of victory.

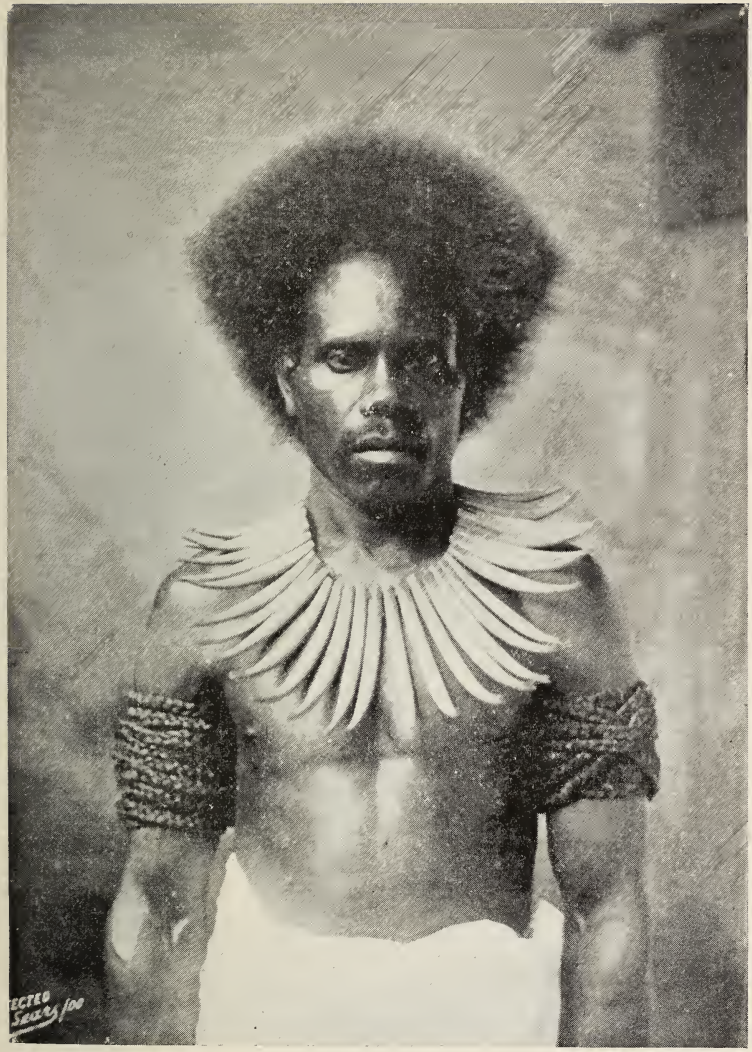
Those, however, of the Rarotongans who died a natural death were without a chance of admission to this South Sea Valhalla.

After we had done justice to the open-air lunch we set forward once more and again found ourselves among villages, but of a superior kind. Long well-kept streets on which pleasant homes abutted were passed until we came to the residence of Mr. Salmon, Speaker of the local Parliament, and who is married to the Tinomana, the high-born lady who had assisted to receive us at the leveè the day before. The large house is well furnished in the European style, and in one of the rooms stands an organ on which Mr. Salmon played selections of music for us in a finished and masterly manner. After we had left the Tinomana's house we drove to Mr. Rice's handsome residence, and were presented by our young hostess to her new baby, whose photograph was taken amid much competition of the ladies for the honour of holding the centre of attraction. Finishing our drive, we had nearly completed the circuit of the island when the word was given to turn off the main road and visit Tereora, where are the

The Premier's Visit to the State School, Levuka.

Levuka, Fiji : From the Entrance to the Reef

Cocoa-beans, Levuka.



A Fijian Chief.

native schools of the London Missionary Society. The place as we saw it is surely one of the most beautiful spots in the world. It has a long approach through handsome trees, some indigenous and some of introduced varieties, and a park grassed with the most luxuriant turf that we had seen since we had left New Zealand. Its palms and shade trees dotted about over the close sward, the admirable site on a gently sloping hill, and the fine buildings of school and dwelling-house make an exceptionally fine picture.

At the school buildings were assembled the native children of the establishment. They had been drawn from the different islands of the Cook Group, and numbered twenty-four only, although the full number for which accommodation is provided is fifty. Miss Large, the Principal, is a lady of exceptional energy and ability. Alone she manages the whole establishment—instruction, provision, &c. The pupils sang hymns for the visitors, and exhibited proofs of the progress they were making in their studies. Mr. Seddon addressed them in a kindly and paternal speech, in which he told them how much they were indebted to Miss Large in giving up her life to their instruction and benefit, and that they should reward her by throwing their hearts into their work. All young people think, he said, as he once did, that play is better than work, but afterwards they would be only too glad to get the chance of having school-days over again. Mr. Seddon explained to them how far-reaching was the power of Britain, and how loyal were their Maori brothers to the Queen, even offering to go and fight battles for her in the Transvaal. The Maoris thought from their traditions that their forefathers had come from Rarotonga, and, as they were evidently one people, he would like to see the Rarotongans get the same educational advantages, technical and otherwise, that the New Zealand Maoris were receiving. He concluded by asking Miss Large to grant a holiday to her pupils next day as a memento of his visit, a request which was granted, and was evidently appreciated by the children.

After photographs of the pupils and visitors had been taken, the setting sun warned for departure, and the long cavalcade started afresh. The descent of the hill brought two casualties. One of the buggies was occupied by four men who had been having a merry time all day, and who had evidently determined that "the last day on a South Sea island" was to be made a festive occasion. As their rather reckless driver took them at full speed down-hill over lumps of coral hidden in the grass, the two occupants of the hinder seat were disturbed amid their graceful bows and acknowledgments to an imaginary audience by finding themselves suddenly left behind the vehicle and prostrate on the grass. They picked up the fractured seat, and in a crestfallen way rejoined the broken part to the rest of their carriage, which had pulled up at the bottom of the hill to allow the Premier's buggy to pass. A wild swerve of the Premier's horses, excited cries, and jumpings off, were explained by the fact of the king-bolt having been lost, and an overturn only just averted. When a makeshift for the king-bolt had been rigged up, the procession again moved on, and soon the starting-point of the morning—the Avarua Post-office—came in sight. It had been a drive not only full of interest, but of instruction. Had it not been made, one might have fancied the settlement of Rarotonga as being merely a few white houses at the foot of great hills. Now, those who shared in the expedition will have not only a life-long memory of a fair land to cherish, but larger ideas of the extent of the island, its fertility, and its immense possibilities in the near future.

The evening was spent in saying "Good-bye" to friends at their homes and on board the steamer. Just before the anchor was weighed, and at about 10 p.m., as we waited for the steam-launch that was about to make its last trip ashore, a grey ghostly form stole along the line of white foam that marks the reef. The dim shape grew till it appeared as that beautiful object, a large schooner in full sail, clear in the moonlight between the anchored steamer and the wharf. There was instant ex-

Bank of New Zealand, Suva.

citement. What was her name? Could she be from New Zealand? Those who knew the coastal shipping said that she must either be the "Ngamaru," from Tahiti, or the "Vaite," from Auckland. Soon the launch was signalled for, Dr. Craig, the Health Officer, went on board of it with Mr. Hamer, and away throbbed the little steamer out into the dimness that had gathered round our visitor, for by this time she had tacked and gone to seaward of us. How we waited! For nearly a month we had received no news from the outer world. What of the war? What of the plague? What news of those dear to us in our colony? Then in a few minutes, that seemed hours, came the pulsations of the tiny engines, and as the launch dashed up to the gangway came the glad shout · "From Auckland! Mafeking is relieved!" A scene of delight beyond expression ensued as the hearers of the message sang and danced with joy. We sang "God save the Queen" with full hearts, cheered gallant Baden-Powell and his men with three times three, and drank the health of our boys at the front in particular and the British Forces in general. Explosive rockets whizzed and banged overhead, the ship was illuminated with blue-lights, the siren-whistle shrieked and roared, and the noise made was so great that the people ashore (who as yet knew nothing of the cause) must have thought we had gone crazy and were turning the quiet Sunday evening into an occasion for a great theatrical display. The launch took a lot of us ashore to get the schooner's mail sorted, in order that we might get a look at our precious letters and papers, also to carry the good news to the Rarotongan authorities.

In respect to the mails that came by the little schooner, the adage that "there's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip" was fully demonstrated, as the following will prove. Acting on instructions from the Secretary of State, His Excellency the Governor, Lord Ranfurly, executed a Commission.* This Commission authorised the Right Hon. Mr. Seddon to make an agreement with Queen Makea, the Arikis, and others for the

* See Appendix F.

annexation of the Cook Group, subject to the approval of Her Majesty and the New Zealand Parliament. This Commission was sent under cover to Colonel Gudgeon. It was given to him on the "Tutanekai," but he was too busy rejoicing to be bothered with official correspondence, and our Premier's Commission did not reach him until some time after his return to the colony. However, he had succeeded, as events subsequently have proved, in fixing up the terms upon which the islands were to be annexed, so that without the Secretary of State's authority our "only king" had, Oliver Cromwell like, acted first, and had anticipated authority following. Red tape and sealing-wax has not yet reached the lovely Island of Rarotonga. "A pest on Commissions!" the Premier would have said: "Hurrah for Baden-Powell, and success to the forces of the Empire in South Africa! Good luck to our boys at the front!" Scores of rockets and blue-lights were expended on the steamer, and on the wharf, but at last we left the inhabitants to sleep in peace. One last look down the avenues of coco-palms, and then "Good-bye!" Rarotonga the beautiful, farewell!

Monday passed quietly. The bow was pointing to New Zealand, and the "Tutanekai" rolled heavily towards her southern destination. Tuesday came, with little wind, but the sea had the usual heavy swell that tossed her, like a float, from trough to comb of wave. On Wednesday the sea grew heavier, and the ship was running well before it. Oh, the dull monotony of existence on the lifeless sea of these latitudes! Not a fish; not a bird. Just tumbling water, grey clouds, and nothing to do. Thursday and Friday followed without change, except that the seas were ever bigger and bigger, the ladies confined to their cabins dejected and ill, and mentally vowing vengeance on Neptune; never again would they go to sea: "No never, hardly ever!" The bill of fare also became daily worse, for Lucy, our last sheep, poor solitary one of the flock, alone looked towards the cook's galley, and the choice poultry of our early days on board had gone over to the majority. Then, we dropped out Saturday,

on that awful meridian of longitude; but a day of the week more or less what did we care, when our New Zealand friends and lovers were "hauling on the tow-rope." Sunday was the last miserable day on the heaving slippery decks, and at dinner "a chop off Lucy" was passed along, "*In memoriam*."

Then came Monday (18th June), and a low dark line of land ahead at dawn. Hurrah! New Zealand in sight! We gathered our forces on deck for formal leave-takings and acknowledgments to those who had with skill and carefulness watched over our safety at sea. A testimonial told gallant Captain Post how much of our pleasure had been owing to the reliance we felt in his seamanship. We had been, indeed, lucky in captain, officers, and engineers, for they all were men not only of ability, but of very pleasant social qualities—no small advantage on a pleasure trip at sea. The doctor, too, had a parchment record of our thanks for warding off unseen dangers in the tropic islands. Slowly, slowly, the beloved land grew nearer and nearer, till at last we touched the timbers of the wharf in Napier Harbour. Whew! how bitter cold it was! How the southerly wind pierced us through, though we had piled on the clothing. What news? "Johannesberg occupied!" "Pretoria taken!" "No plague in New Zealand!" "Hurrah!" again. The wharf hands gave a welcoming: "Three cheers for the Premier!" and the trip was over. Four thousand miles—no one lost or hurt; the Premier's health restored. It was no wonder that we felt delighted.

The first enjoyment on *terra firma* was the breakfast at the Masonic. How enjoyable! but to host Moeller far from profitable. "Chops, return"—and how different from those taken from poor old sheep Lucy; but, ah, well! she was fed on bananas and cocoanuts. The sheep in Hawke's Bay are fattened in the finest meadows in the colony—there's the difference.

The train Wellington-wards was calling; the last good-bye said. "The Voyage of the Premier" had become already only a memory.

FAREWELL!

(ORIGINAL.)

O feathered shadows of the palm,
Farewell!
O scented thickets, airs of balm,
Islets of coral ringed with calm,
Farewell, farewell!

O roaring surf and green lagoon,
Farewell!
Blossoms asleep in languorous noon,
White dwellings glist'ning neath the moon,
Farewell, farewell!

Dark eyes whose glance was a caress,
Farewell!
Sweet voices only raised to bless,
And soft brown hands of friendliness,
Farewell, farewell!

O'er wintry wastes of waves we sigh
"Farewell!"
To sapphire sea and sapphire sky
A sad "good-bye," a last "good-bye,"
Farewell, farewell!

June, 1900.

Tea Plantation Levuka.

Village Scene, Fiji

A Happy Private Secretary

Copra at Levuka

Effect of a Hurricane on Coco-palms, Levuka.

Catholic School, Levuka.

Native House Fiji.

The Tea Industry, Levuka.

Native House, Fiji.

APPENDICES.

Appendix A.

ESTABLISHING A PROTECTORATE OVER TONGA.

British Consulate, Tonga.—Proclamation.

Whereas His Majesty the King of Tonga has been pleased to sign an agreement dated the 2nd May, 1900, and a treaty dated the 18th May, 1900, wherein he agrees that his relations with foreign Powers shall be conducted under the sole advice of Her Britannic Majesty's Government, and that Her Majesty shall protect His Majesty's dominions from external hostile attacks:

It is hereby proclaimed that a Protectorate by Her Britannic Majesty has been established accordingly, and all persons concerned are commanded to take notice of this establishment.

Basil Home Thomson,
H.B.M. Envoy Extraordinary to H.M.
the King of Tonga.

Appendix B.

SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE PREMIER

(Right Hon. R. J. Seddon) to the Warden and Citizens of Suva, on the Occasion of a Banquet tendered to him on the 28th May, 1900.

The Premier: Mr. Warden and Gentlemen,—The chairman has spoken of my visit as unexpected. I am sure if any one had told me at an early hour this morning that I should have been enjoying myself as I am doing to-night, with kindred spirits, I could not have believed it. In fact, I begin to feel now as if I had never left New Zealand. It is a small world, and I begin to realise that the saying from Holy Writ, "A prophet has no honour in his own country," is fairly correct. Your chairman, in his reference to me to-night, went so far as to say that I was a statesman. I hope, gentlemen, you will notice that I am not found to be blushing, and I hold that any man who has occupied the position of a Minister of the Crown for ten years and blushes is no statesman. Seriously speaking, I assure you I am delighted to be

with you; and I may say that there is a gentleman sitting at the table now to whom the credit should be given for my visit to these islands, and that is Captain Post, of the New Zealand Government steamship "Tutanekai," who would have me, rightly or wrongly, come to Suva. It is an ill wind that blows nobody any good. A tremendous gale blocked our way to Rarotonga. It is no use, as you know, warring against the elements, and, like sensible men, we went with the wind. We came to Tonga, and ultimately to Suva.

The impressions gathered from what I have read, first of all in respect to Tonga, have been entirely erroneous; and when I came further on to Suva, and I found a gentleman here by my side thirty years, another twenty years, in the islands, and several New-Zealanders, who look just as young and unblushing as myself, I begin to think that this is not a bad place at all at all, and that a great injustice has been done the colony, for the place speaks for itself. Take the death-rate: it is a grave subject to speak about after dinner, but it is very low. I may say that since my arrival at Tonga, and also on my arrival there, I have been received with every courtesy, and hospitality was showered upon my party and myself from the King downwards; and when in the presence of His Majesty, and looking at King George and King Richard —or "King Dick," as I am usually called—I saw, with the exception of colour, no difference except in weight. However, I was very well pleased indeed with our stay and reception at Tonga. Arriving here this morning, and when accosted and asked this afternoon whether I was prepared to accept a banquet this evening, I may say I was astonished, because I had been received in different parts of our colony and Australia with hospitality, but they did not do things so quickly or nearly so well as you have done here in Suva. I do not care about disclosing State secrets, but the question came to be, Give honour where honour is due, and where respect is due. My duty was to wait upon His Excellency your Governor, which I did; and I gave a sigh of relief when he asked me to dine with him to-morrow night, because it left me free to dine with you to-night. When arriving this morning it was my intention to leave at 7 to-morrow morning, but I am not going at 7 at all. I am going to see your beautiful river, your native villages, the Nausori Sugar-works, where the cane grows, and I hope to be where they make rum—(Laughter)—but that is to-morrow.

Now, the first question I was plied with to-day was, "How is the war proceeding?" There was a general anxiety felt by each and all who asked the question, and I said to myself this is a community that commands respect, and their hearts are with those who are fighting the battles of the Empire at the

front, as are the hearts of those in New Zealand and every part of the nation—(Hear, hear, and loud cheering)—and I was pleased to see that Fiji was well represented in South Africa through its worthy Chief Justice in the person of his son, who is there. I may here say that I claim to be an old acquaintance of Sir Henry Berkeley. Men ready to part with their sons to fight the battles of the Empire simply show this: that one feeling pervades wherever Britishers are located, and that is: come what will, come what may, we shall uphold to the fullest extent the honour of that grand old flag, the emblem of freedom, justice, and liberty. You were anxious for the latest news from the front. Well, shortly before leaving, the communications I had from our Agent-General were to the effect that the Boers had given up Wepener in a hurry. Lord Roberts, in his despatches, had said the Boers were in full retreat, and what was hourly expected at the time I left was the relief of Mafeking. (Hear, hear.) I was in hopes that we might have had news when we arrived here, but your means of communication are somewhat uncertain. At all events, Field-Marshal Lord Roberts has said to General Powell that he would relieve him before the 24th May. (A Voice: That has passed.) I have so much faith in that grand Commander Roberts, and so much faith in Baden-Powell —(Cheers)—and the noble and gallant band that is with him, that I know the promise will be kept, and the first news you get here of any consequence will be the relief of Mafeking.

As you are aware, General Carrington, with a large force, is making south through Beira to Buluwayo, and should be well down to Mafeking on or about the 20th, whilst the force coming from the south, taking into consideration the extraordinary marching they are doing, would be through about the same time. I think the relief of Mafeking would take place on or about the 21st May. (Cheers.) I take a great interest in the force that is coming from Beira to the relief of Mafeking, because my eldest boy is with them. (Cheers, loud and prolonged.) Now, as to the final result there can be no doubt; but I do not think we shall have the independence or otherwise of the Transvaal and Orange Free State determined until about the end of October. I have received word from a reliable source that the Boers will not make a stand at Pretoria. That is very good in its way, but you cannot believe all you hear. As Minister of Defence, and having a brief knowledge of fortifications, the plans of the place, and its people, I do not anticipate that they are going to allow General Roberts to walk into Pretoria in the manner he walked into Bloemfontein. It will be a long time before the British flag floats over Pretoria, but it will float over it, and of that I am as sure as I am speaking here to-night. (Cheers.) What I long for—and

which is not impossible, knowing what has been done by the colonials in South Africa—is that a colonial contingent may be the first to enter Pretoria, and a colonial man be the first to plant the grand old flag there.

There will, no doubt, be a kind of hide-and-go-seek warfare —guerilla warfare—for some time after the main fighting has stopped. Now, for this kind of fighting the British troops are rather slow, and I believe the only ones that will be found to effectually cope with this kind of fighting will be the colonials, leaving, of course, as a base the artillery and the British soldier, who has in no way deteriorated. (Hear, hear.) He has demonstrated that, and proved as good a man in South Africa as his ancestors did on the field of Waterloo. However, gentlemen, all this goes to prove that we are the dominant race; in fact, we are the people, and so long as we are carrying out the higher civilisation that now prevails it naturally follows as reasonable that we must reign supreme. All admit that greater opportunities are given and greater freedom can be exercised when under the British flag. That being so, we all work together in the colonies for the commonwealth. (Cheers.) I will leave the larger Imperial question by saying that I look forward, after what has taken place during the last few months, to having in the Imperial Councils at Home representatives from the colonies—(Hear, hear)—in the House of Commons and representatives in the House of Lords. (Loud cheering.) It is now fully demonstrated what is good for the Empire, any troubles that are brought upon it, and with those responsible for the troubles, I say it has been demonstrated that we are as deeply affected in the results as the Old Country. (Hear, hear.)

There are some of these troubles where colonial statesmen have pointed out to the Imperial authorities where danger exists, and the Imperial authorities have not recognised the responsibility cast upon them. They never looked to what has been done and what is to be done in the islands of the Pacific. This is a question of deep concern to the people of the colonies; not only the people of to-day, but those who come after them. The Imperial authorities have not dealt with the islands as they ought to have dealt with them. Had there been in the British Councils representatives from the colonies, what has happened during the last few years respecting these islands never would have happened. We are the cubs of the lion. They say it is an Englishman's birthright to find fault, and there are State matters of grave responsibility cast upon the Imperial authorities which we are not probably altogether acquainted with. I accept the decisions as having been come to after mature consideration. I accept them as every Britisher should accept the inevitable, and as being

done for the best; but where mistakes have occurred we must take good care that no mistakes of a like kind occur again. (Hear, hear.) Now, this brings me very close home: What is to be done for the islands? Some are under protection; some are absolutely British. Coming to yourselves it naturally excites your curiosity, and it was very pointedly hinted at by your worthy chairman. You say, When are we here in Fiji to have self-government? I cannot answer that, but this I do know: that those who have asked in a constitutional manner, and who have proved themselves worthy of self-government, have never been refused. I have never known the request to fail yet. (Cheers.) "Knock at the door and it shall be opened to you," and if you only knock at the door in Downing Street as you are knocking on this table you will be heard. However, I hope that my visit here will be of benefit to you. I can assure you I am satisfied from what I have seen during the short time I have been here that you have a future before you. I have ascertained what your revenue and expenditure is, and the opportunities there are for increasing it, and I am satisfied; but, at all events, there is no danger of financial loss in whatever form of government you are under.

Your chairman went into the question of federation. Now, that is a large question for me to go into, and it would be trespassing upon your indulgence. I may say I am delighted myself at the nation-making which is taking place in Australia. We have, during the last twelve months, south of the Equator, turned bright pages in our history. We must in no way weaken the sources from which we spring. We must strengthen the bond of union between us and the dear old Mother-land; and whilst I thought it rather an unpleasant task to undertake—namely, to use all the influence I could on behalf of the people of our colony against the Commonwealth Bill, for it destroyed the Royal prerogative, inasmuch as it took away the right of direct appeal to the Privy Council, and if that is done everything would be going in the wrong direction—still there are times when one must stand up for what he believes to be for the public good. (Cheers.) Your chairman says, "federation of Fiji with New Zealand." First of all, I say, commence at home. What is there to prevent the federation of these islands? I may, however, tell you that, after twenty-five years' study of the Maori race, and having taken a deep interest in Polynesian questions, I have come to the conclusion that it is better to keep them clear of revenue and expenditure; finance should be controlled by the Government independent of the natives. They are able to manage native hapus, or whatever you may call them, but they are not educated to finance, and any attempt to intrust them with it would be a signal failure. Generation after

generation have been taught to look to the chiefs, and the chiefs look to their superior, the Ariki. To give powers to men who do not understand them must land you in confusion. I am speaking now after an experience of twenty-five years of the subject, and I say, Leave them severely alone. I say the government ought to be in the hands of the Europeans.

I am shortly about to visit some of the other islands. As you know, we in New Zealand take a great interest in the Cook Islands, and we must stop them falling into the hands of a foreign nation. I hope I may not be thought egotistical when I say that I have done a great deal in the way of stopping other islands from falling into the hands of foreign nations. I left my colony for the good of my health, for if I had not done something in the way of taking rest it possibly might have been serious for me, so I decided to visit the islands. I never care about giving definite advice about a subject unless I thoroughly understand it, so I thought I would combine business with the work of restoration of health, and obtain all the information I could in respect to the islands and in respect to what was for their good. I think you will all admit, although not belonging to the faculty, that my health does not seem so very bad after all. It is very pleasing to me to meet kindred spirits at the festive board, and I often wonder how those individuals feel who have never been to a banquet. I do not know how they exist; they certainly do not know what good things they have missed. Now, I have been to many banquets in my time, and I would ask you gentlemen to take a look round this room and say if it does not show that something has been done by these banquets. My honourable friend on my right says "Hear, hear"; he must have been in the same position as myself—he appreciates banquets.

Gentlemen, I will come now to a subject which touched me very deeply—I allude to the remarks respecting my good wife—because I assure you that had it not been for her assistance and her devotion, I should never have been able to do the work I have been able to do. (Cheers.) If I were in another country, and had to draft a Constitution, I would put one clause in it to the effect that the Premier should not be a bachelor, as we have here to-night in the person of the vice-chairman. (Laughter.) A man should never be elected to or hold high positions in any country unless he has a good wife, or promises to get one on the first opportunity offering. Gentlemen, on behalf of my dear wife, the anniversary of whose birth is this 28th day of May, I thank you very sincerely. She has managed me for thirty-one years under considerable difficulties, and I speak feelingly when I say that I am quite prepared to do another thirty-one years under the

same conditions. This, gentleman, is our first meeting, but I do hope and sincerely trust it will not be the last. I will go further, and tell you that I mean to shorten the distance between Fiji and New Zealand. (Enthusiastic cheering, loud and prolonged.)

Your chairman touched a vital chord when he touched commerce—commerce in its fullest extent. There are two ties which bind us to the Mother-country. The first is blood and kindred; next comes commerce. Now, we in the colonies —my own colony in particular, for we have gone a long distance ahead of the other colonies in respect to improving the means of communication with them—have done much in the way of improving communication, and I am, as the immortal Burns has it, "A chiel amang ye takin' notes," inquiring into the extent of your trade, and the class of trade, and I am getting the information as much for your benefit as for that of my colony. When I was told in Tonga that the saloon passage to New Zealand was £10 (now raised to £15), and when I came here and learnt that for a few days' run the passage-money was £10, I said it was prohibitive. (Cheers.) Then, again, £2 7s. 6d. per ton freight for goods from Auckland to Tonga, with an extra 5s. for various other charges, means that the connection between the two is not what it ought to be, and it means that the State as a State must step in until the trade grows, and by that means reduce these charges. With increased population and increased trade, of course, it would follow as a natural sequence that reduction would take place; but in the meantime I have no hesitation in saying that in fixing our subsidy—even though it be a question of increasing it—we ought to fix the maximum of passenger rates and the carriage of produce—(Hear, hear)—and we ought to have fixed dates and regularity of communication.

Now, gentlemen, do not for a moment think that I have anything to say against the Union Company. The Union Company has done great things for the Colony of New Zealand; but what the Colony of New Zealand will have to do will be to bring the directors up to date, as at the present time they do not seem to understand the position, otherwise the company must lose as well as the colony. I think, gentlemen, I have now unburdened myself, and will not trouble you with further business. I have enjoyed my stay amongst you, and shall carry back with me happy recollections of our meeting to-night. I shall be able to tell my colleagues and the good people of New Zealand that, instead of wasting their money upon doctors' physic, let them come to Tonga and Fiji. I can only say, Mr. Chairman, that the doses I have received this evening have had a most beneficial effect; and as we

have to go up the river to-morrow, and shall have the cold water underneath us, and as we are going to the sugar-works on the Rewa River we shall have the sugar and rum ahead of us, and the beautiful scenery to the right and left of us, it will be indeed a wonder if I do not go back to my colony with a good impression of Suva and its people. (Cheers, loud and prolonged.)

Appendix C.

SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE PREMIER

(Right Hon. R. J. Seddon) on bidding Good-bye to the King of Niue (Savage Island), at Tuapa.

In bidding farewell to the King and Chiefs, Mr. Seddon said: To the King, the Chiefs, and the people here assembled, —Salutations and love to you all. I assure you that I am very pleased indeed with this nice reception which you have accorded to us. Our stay amongst you has been very short, but it has been very pleasant indeed, and I shall carry away with me pleasant recollections, and leave our love with you. Very few people visit you, but if they knew you as we know you now, more people would come to see you. I am sure my family have enjoyed their visit here. You have comforted them; you have made them all into Niueans. If they were to stop much longer I do not think I should know them, they would be so changed. Now, this island, I have said, is seldom visited by Europeans. In the first place, steamers never come here; they go to the other islands, but this island is passed by. That should be changed, and not only so, but the name appears on our map as Savage Island or Niue. It should be changed to "The Island of Love." When I return home I will recommend that a change be made.

Now, though I should be away from you, I shall be ever thinking of you, and in my position as Prime Minister of New Zealand, and as the Adviser of Her Majesty's Representative, I shall be able to help you. There is now a tie which will help to keep us together: Queen Victoria is now your protector, and her protection will save you for all time, and give you advantages which you have never had before. To-day will be a day ever to be remembered; your King and Queen and the New-Zealanders forming the group have exchanged thoughts. The events of this day are only a commencement, later on the bond of union will be complete. The people who come after you, and who will afterwards be on this island when the King and I have passed away, will remember that

this has been a day of good for the people of this island for all time. Your King and myself have sat together, with the British flag around us, and, with the spirit of our good and gracious Queen Victoria upholding that flag, it will show to the world to what Power Niue belongs, that it is under the protection of the Queen, and the people here will be protected and ever be happy. You hold and possess here the best flag in the islands. There are many people on the island whom I have not been able to see, and I wish to convey to them my good wishes, and that it is my wish that I may again visit the island, when I hope then to meet them. Now, before I go away, I wish to bear testimony to the good example of kindness and welcome that Mr. Head and his family have given to us, and to Miss Head, who went and gave notice of our coming and made our visit so successful, and with whom my wife has fallen in love. I want to thank all these maidens for their kindness in singing and dancing to-day, showing us what they used to do in days gone by. We thus have had the past and present before us. Now, I want the full strength of the company to join in three cheers for the King, the Queen, Mr. and Mrs. Head and family, and Mr. Pearce.

The party then returned to the house of the Rev. Mr. Lawes.

Appendix D.

SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE PREMIER

(Right Hon. R. J. Seddon) to Queen Makea and the Arikis, at the Palace, Rarotonga, on the 8th June (Western Time), on the Occasion of his Official Reception.

Lieut.-Colonel Gudgeon, the British Resident, said the first matter to be considered—and one which was of the utmost importance to the Cook Islands—was the establishment of a money-order system with New Zealand through the Post Office. By this means the islanders would have an opportunity of sending their produce to New Zealand and receiving the proceeds in English money. They had to thank the Right Hon. Mr. Seddon for the idea of starting this movement. He had the convention in his hand; he had gone through it, and it seemed to him to be a most reasonable and effective agreement. It was hardly possible at present, with the short time at their disposal, for him to explain all the several items of management, details, &c., that were set forth in the document; but what he would suggest was that, as he had so often acted

for the Arikis in these islands, they should authorise him to sign the convention on their behalf, which was so much in favour of the Cook Islands, and which would also be a source of revenue to them.

The Premier: Supplementary to what the British Resident has said, I desire to say that this convention, as far as New Zealand is concerned, is only submitted for, on behalf, and for the benefit of the islands. Your friend Colonel Gudgeon has represented that the producers, Arikis—in fact, every one on the islands here—were suffering on account of the circulation of the Chilian dollar, which was only worth 1s. 9d.; that there was no way of paying for goods or getting goods here except through the Chilian currency. People bought their goods, and sent to the islands Chilian money in payment therefor, thus making double the profit. They were keeping the producers and Arikis here poor, whilst these buyers were getting very rich. The Governor of New Zealand, the Earl of Ranfurly, then said to me, "Mr. Seddon, can you devise any means to help the inhabitants of these islands?" I said I would try, as my heart was with him in trying to stop this injustice under which you are suffering, and evolve some scheme to get you out of the difficulty and assist you. This (the Postal Convention) is the result of my desire to help you. Now, the cost of the clerical work will be more than paid, and there will also be a profit. For instance, on £1 sent, up to £2, there will be 6d. kept back as commission; £5 up to £10 sent away, you keep back 1s. for commission; £10 up to £20, you keep back 2s. So that the scheme practically pays for itself; it does not entail any loss. Now, to show the advantage: Suppose one sent away £100 to Auckland for goods, or to any part of New Zealand, he would take out five money-orders for £20—no single order, I must tell you, can be for more than £20—and then the Government would take 10s. for commission. If it was sent through the bank the charge would be a good deal more.

Mr. Goodwin: I recollect sending up £300 through the bank the other day, and had to pay £4.

The Premier: Now, the same agreement exists with Fiji, and it has been working there for some years very satisfactorily. I submitted similar proposals to the King of Tonga, and he wrote me a letter to the effect that he was very favourably impressed, and was going to refer it to his Government. And I think it is almost certain they will accept it, as it is more of a concession to them than it is to the people here. Accounts will be adjusted every three months. Say we have sent you so-much money, and you have sent us so-much; whichever of us is entitled to the balance will receive a remittance to meet the difference, so that there shall be no

difficulty. To give you a fair opportunity to note how it works, you can try it for twelve months, and if at the end of that time you say you do not like it and do not care to go any further, well and good. I do not want to fix it for a long period; I only want you to give it a trial and see how it works. After that you can renew it if you like, which I know you are bound to do. The only thing I wish to impress upon you is to be careful to balance up every quarter, and be sure that you are correct. The Audit Department in our colony is very strict. If you are careful in this respect there is no need for anxiety. But I have every faith in you. This, I may say, is a new departure, as it is the first time we have proposed any such arrangement with one of the self-governing islands. Fiji, of course, is a British colony. I feel satisfied I can trust the Queen and the Arikis here with as much confidence as I can trust the Fiji authorities. Such being the case, the matter rests with you and me. In dealing with the people I never try to force anything upon them; I reason with them; and after they have listened to my reasoning, if they do not consider it sufficient, I say, "*Taihoa*": hold it over. If, on the other hand, you think well of it, and that it can be done, I shall sign the convention before I leave, and Colonel Gudgeon can do so on your behalf, and in a few weeks this system can be at work. I have said enough upon that subject. I will leave it now between yourselves and Colonel Gudgeon to sign on behalf of the Cook Islands.

I came from New Zealand for the benefit of my health, and I am glad to say my health has very much improved; and, as I have been going through the islands noting the conditions of the people and matters which I think of importance to them, I am quite prepared to give to the Queen and Arikis assembled the result of my visit and the subject-matters which I desire to draw their attention to, and which I hope will be for the benefit of yourselves and your people. Having now had ten years' experience as a Minister of the Crown and twenty years' experience as a member of the New Zealand Parliament, I can speak with some authority, and bring my knowledge and experience to bear for your benefit. I do not wish to intrude my opinions upon you, but as I take a deep interest in the race to which you belong, as I wish to preserve you, and to improve your condition, it is that which prompts me, and I do it as a duty.

The first question I wish to bring under your notice is in reference to the restriction of Chinese. If the Asiatics come here in large numbers it means deterioration of your race. They bring evils amongst you worse than bubonic plague. It may be strong language to use, but I would rather see a case of plague here than see a hundred Chinamen land. They

bring leprosy with them, gambling, immorality, and opium-smoking. They get hold of young people and teach them those bad habits. The result is that the whole of the race will be degenerated. Under all these circumstances, I would say that we have found it necessary in New Zealand to make the poll-tax £100. I find that it is only £25 here. It is a matter for the Queen, the Arikis, and the authorities here to consider whether or not the law respecting Chinese should be the same as that passed in New Zealand.

Makea: I should like the Act amended so as to make the poll-tax £100. I may say that I wake up in the morning and find a fresh Chinaman here, and no one seems to know where he came from.

The Premier: Restrain them: copy the Act of New Zealand and be safe. In their quarters you see filth; in their habits they are dirty. In New Zealand we had to come to the conclusion to burn some of their places, they were in such a filthy state. In Sydney, Melbourne, Wellington, and all our cities we find the same dirt and filth wherever they are. I will send you a copy of our New Zealand laws; Colonel Gudgeon will explain them to you, and I think it would be wise if you followed the same course. I will leave that subject now.

There is a little matter which came under my notice; it is in connection with the Customs duties. I find that there are people importing goods here with a value stated in the invoice which is below the market value, and claim that such goods should pass through the Customs and be charged duty on the value stated in the invoice, which may or may not be genuine. Now, that is not a proper interpretation of the law. I am Commissioner of Customs for New Zealand and the Ministerial head of that department, and we interpret the law thus: We first find out what the market value was at the port of shipment, and we charge duty upon that; and it will be for Colonel Gudgeon, or whoever is acting here, to do the same. I bring this under your notice in order to protect your Customs revenue.

Now, there is another matter of social importance to you which I desire to bring under your notice and under the notice of the British Resident, as I believe it to be in the interest of public health, the saving of life, and the improvement of the morals of the people. In all tropical countries where there is heavy rain during the winter season it has been found that the inhabitants suffer from asthma and pulmonary complaints. This in a great measure arises from the fact that the whares or houses are built on the ground—people sleep on the floor close to the ground, on mats; the moisture gets into the system; this is the case with children more particularly, and

he result is that disease is brought on. It commences in youth and they pine away. Now, what I would like to see is a law passed that no floor on which people sleep should be less than 4 ft. from the ground, and, if they prefer earth, let them fill up with earth in the way of a mound; but let the floor be 4 ft. high from the main ground.

Makea: It is quite true, what you say; but most of the Maoris do not know it.

The Premier: I wish this done, and I am going to show you that it has been done elsewhere, and that the authorities have taken power to do it. There is a regulation now in force in Fiji that every whare is to be raised 4 ft. above the ground, and it ought to be done here.

Makea: It only has to be brought under our notice.

The Premier: It will prevent the decrease by death of the population and tend to health and strength. It is a little thing, but great things will spring from it: it will prevent disease. There is another question, and, as you are all of mature age here and married men and women, I may speak freely: it is the separation of the sexes. I think it is necessary that a law should be passed that man and wife should sleep separate from their children. Separate compartments should be provided in every house, and divisions made for boys and girls, and that they should not all be allowed to sleep in the one place. Evils arise from the boys and girls being together like that which tend to immorality. It can be prevented, and will, I am sure, be prevented; it only wants to be pointed out. The girls should be separate, and you will find great good accrue if you do this, and the morals of your children will be safeguarded. There is a regulation for building houses in the City of Glasgow. It is a big city, with over half a million inhabitants. They have a law there which only allows, according to the size of the house, a certain number of people to live in it; and, if they find more people sleeping in that house than it is licensed to hold, the occupier is brought up, fined heavily, and sometimes sent to prison. I am giving these authorities to show you that if you pass such a law or regulation there are precedents for it both in the New and Old World. I will leave that subject for your consideration later on. There is another matter which I have noticed after making inquiries—in fact, it is one of the most serious difficulties under which you labour—and that is the want of a vessel to act as a tender, to go round the islands and bring produce to this island (Rarotonga) for shipment. If there was such a vessel, she could take goods from here to the other islands, and bring back produce from there to Rarotonga for shipment elsewhere, and be of great benefit to the islands as a whole. The next question that naturally arises is, How can

this be done? I take it for granted that you admit the necessity for it.

The Arikis: We do.

The Premier: Very well, then; you will say, How can it be done: how are we to find the money to buy the vessel? We, in New Zealand, have the money. There is a mutual advantage in trade as between the islands and New Zealand. Put the matter outside friendship: there is the advantage in trade and commerce. You have a tropical country which grows tropical fruits, and therefore for all time we shall want those fruits, and you, in return, will want our meats and some of our products and goods. There is therefore a mutual interest involved. Subject to ratification by my colleagues, I will, when I go back, outline a scheme; and if the Cook Islands authorities submit a scheme on the lines I suggest, I am prepared to give the matter my favourable consideration, subject, of course, to the approval of my colleagues. It is for New Zealand to lend you the money to buy the vessel, the New Zealand Government taking security over such vessel, which must be kept insured up to its full value; the Cook Islands Government to pay 5 per cent. as interest on the cost of the vessel —that is the money we lend—and to pay off the liability by instalments covering a number of years, so that ultimately the vessel would belong to the Cook Islands Government. They would also pay the insurance and establish a sinking fund which would ultimately extinguish the original debt. The manning, working, and control of the vessel would be under the Cook Islands Government. It would be a Government vessel for them the same as we in New Zealand have the "Tutanekai" and "Hinemoa." I may tell you that a suggestion somewhat similar to this has come from a trading company, but I prefer that it should come from the Government, as the trading companies would use the vessel for their own common wealth.

Makea: I would never give my consent for it to be in the hands of a private firm.

The Premier: When we agree, I wish it to be controlled by the Cook Islands Government.

Ngamaru (Ariki): Rarotonga and Aitutaki are very different from my island. There are greater difficulties there. I have no vessel to take any of my produce away, neither is there any vessel to take stuff away from Mangaia.

The Premier: What I have suggested will meet the case. The boat would want to be an auxiliary sailer, with an up-to-date oil-engine, and we can agree upon the stamp of vessel most suitable. There is not sufficient coal for steam purposes —the oil is the best. The next question will naturally be asked—and in my Parliament in New Zealand, when I ask

for a vote for this money, it will be asked—Why should we lend the Cook Islands Government this money? The answer is that it is to our advantage. This is the condition that would give us the advantage—namely, that in carrying the produce from the islands, the produce that is for shipment to New Zealand must have the preference. If there are fifty cases of oranges on the wharf for New Zealand, fifty for other places, and fifty for another place, and the vessel has only room for fifty, then she must take the fifty for New Zealand. That will be a reason for the New Zealand Government advancing the money. Any vessel coming from New Zealand with goods for the other islands, the vessel going to the islands shall give the preference to New Zealand goods. Now, I never like to raise hopes and then for them to be dashed to the ground. I cannot assure you that I can carry this, but as the matters have gone through my brain I have considered how it can be done. It seems to me that this is the only way it can be done. Submit this proposal to me, and I will submit it to my Cabinet. I will also submit it to our Governor, and I know our Governor is himself anxious to help you. Submit these proposals, and you might, in submitting them, say that there shall be a maximum scale of freights, and when we make the arrangements we can fix the maximum scale of freights. If you try to make revenue out of the boat, that would be an injustice to the producers. I should say, fix the maximum rate of freight and make the vessel pay, but do not attempt to make a profit out of her to the detriment of the producers. I will now conclude this by saying that any proposal should come at once. Our Parliament meets in the course of a few days, and the proposal should be in before the delivery of the Financial Statement; and if I get the proposal submitted by the authorities here I shall bring it before my Cabinet, and ask our Parliament, though it is a new departure, to make the experiment; and I am certain it would be of immense benefit to the islands. There are any amount of men who say "we sympathize with the islanders; we like to help the islanders": but I think we should do something practical and show a means out of the difficulty, and that is the way I show my mode of loving you, and that is to help you.

Another subject and I have just about finished, because I do not wish to detain you too long. I have only dealt with what I consider to be questions of importance. I touched slightly with the currency question when dealing with the Postal Convention. The Cook Island authorities can deal with the question themselves, but there is a doubt in my mind as to whether they can grapple with it unless there is something to take its place. They can pass an Act saying that the Chilian coin is not to be a legal tender. You have sufficient

power to do that to-morrow, and if that law was passed it would be worth some thousands of pounds to the natives here. Now, in thinking the matter over, I think I have found a way to meet the difficulty, and the way to meet it would be for the New Zealand Government to send some money here to take the place of the Chilian money. The question then comes, To whom should that money be sent with safety? Well, the solution of the difficulty is this—but I may tell you that I am not definitely certain whether it can be done until I consult our Postmaster-General, Hon. Mr. Ward: to establish here a Post-Office Savings-bank belonging to the Colony of New Zealand, with an officer appointed by the New Zealand Government who would have charge of the savings-bank portion, under guarantee. It would then be practically a branch of our post-office system. We would send money to him, and anybody who wished to have British money could have it. It seems feasible and safe. The only question is the constitutional one, and that is whether we can legally establish a Post-Office Savings-bank outside the colony itself. However, we might be able to pass an Act which would enable us to do it. I find that through the coinage here the loss to the Natives has been great, and that they are only getting half-price for their produce. The thousands of pounds that should rightly go to them go to others, and I think the question calls for decisive action. We could do this and simultaneously pass an Act which would for ever banish the Chilian dollar. That concludes now the several matters which during the last few days I have been thinking over, and which I deemed to be to your advantage. There may be some imperfections, as I have had to deal shortly with very large questions, but I have laid down the general principles, and the details can easily be elaborated. I think it would be to your advantage if effect is given to my suggestions. Lastly, there is a large question which reached me through His Excellency the Governor. He gave me a petition in reference to the annexation of the islands to Great Britain, and which set forth that if annexation took place it should be to Great Britain, and not to New Zealand. Now, as this petition was presented to our Parliament, I wish to give some explanation. First of all, I would say that neither the Parliament of New Zealand, the Government, or myself are to blame. I myself was the leader of the House who objected to the petition being received at all or being dealt with, because I believed then, as I believe now, that the parties thereto could be well done without in these islands. Not only that, but as the Cook Islands had its own Parliament, its own Government, and its own authorities, the petition should have been presented through them and not to our Parliament. This is

looking at it from a constitutional point of view. Our Speaker who sits in the chair received the petition; it was therefore admitted, but practically what occurred thereafter was that the petition in question was admitted into the waste-paper basket.

Now, since I have been here I have been informed that there are parties who are going to present a petition to me for annexation of the islands to New Zealand. I will, therefore, take the Queen and Arikis into my confidence, and tell them what I shall do and what I shall say to them. I have not come here to interfere with your internal arrangements at all, nor with your constitutional position. It is my duty, in the position I hold, and as a member of Her Majesty's Privy Council, to uphold the authorities wherever existing, and at the same time to preserve the interests of the Empire; and, as one of the advisers of the Representative of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, I would advise the Queen Makea with the same conscientious scruple as I would the Queen of our Empire. Now, if this request comes to me I will tell you what I intend to do. I shall hand it to Colonel Gudgeon, and shall tell him to hand it to Queen Makea; and it will then be for herself and the Arikis to make any remarks, and to send it on through the proper channel, which is through the Governor of New Zealand. In fact, the petitioners do not seem to realise that they are actually slighting the Governor of New Zealand by giving the petition to me. If they think they are going to use me for a vehicle for anything of that kind they have made a very great mistake indeed. If it is your wish for a change, well and good. At the same time I recognise your position, and I will be no party to injure it or weaken your authority: I believe in upholding authority, not destroying it. As one who advised His Excellency the Governor to appoint Colonel Gudgeon — and he is here — I may tell you that with a man in his position, particularly in a place like this, where he is the sole representative, it would be impossible for him to please every one. He stands between the Arikis and the people and the Europeans; everybody, if there is a grievance, comes to him. He has the authorities to uphold, and his position is a most difficult one for any man to undertake. I have been delighted to find as I went through the islands that he has the confidence of the people; that wherever I have been—to say there have been no complaints would be to ask an impossibility—but I say there has been nothing of importance, and there is a general confidence between the chiefs, the people, and the Resident, and I find a condition of affairs now which I hope will continue. Another pleasing feature is that I find the Queen and the Arikis support him. You may rest assured—and I speak after a knowledge

of many years—that all human beings are liable to make mistakes, but you have in Colonel Gudgeon one who will do what he believes to be for your good and the good of your people.

Makea : Everything which has been suggested by the British Resident has been approved.

The Premier : I feel sure he will not do anything but what is for your good. I will conclude by saying that I find the most popular man on the island is Mr. Goodwin. He is very popular amongst the ladies. The men rush to shake hands with Colonel Gudgeon, but the ladies rush to shake hands with Mr. Goodwin. Now, this is a great thing, and shows judgment on the part of Colonel Gudgeon in selecting his officers; it is a good thing to have a man under you whom you can trust and place reliance in. Our time is so short that we are always liable to overlook something: but there is a last and most important matter I must mention, and it is of such magnitude that I am almost afraid to mention it; but I will mention it, for I wish you to think over it. It is this: You want a wharf here; it would take very little money to construct, and if you have this vessel a wharf will be almost indispensable. Now, at Niue they have just a little gut in the reef where ships' boats go in, but not wide enough to turn in; there is no opening in the reef at all. At Aitutaki there is a long tortuous channel studded with rocks which bar the approach of a boat. There are some of the other islands I have not seen, but the reef is just the same; you have got to go over it the same as at Mangaia. The New Zealand Government have the means to remove all these difficulties with very little cost. We have what we call submarine mining experts; they could put a few charges of guncotton into the reef, and by explosion make a channel through it. I could make a boat-channel in each of these places for about £500, so that whenever you have cargo you could take it away in boats instead of depending upon the canoes to bring it ashore. Now, I am going to suggest when I go back and see whether we can lend the Cook Islands authorities our experts. All they would require to do would be to pay the cost of the guncotton and the expenses, and when I go back I will mention this to the Governor and all my colleagues, and, as a practical man, show the great advantage it would be to place our machinery at the disposal of the Cook Islands authorities for this purpose. Some of our engineers get sick sometimes like myself, and a trip to Rarotonga would improve their health, and I might send one here to report upon this and do the work. I hope later on to again visit you, and to then find you and your position improved. I shall carry back with me pleasant recollections of this my visit to the islands; and at any time I can be of assistance to you I shall be most happy to render that assistance—in

fact, I do advise the Governor now in respect to questions which are submitted from here. I shall now be better able to advise him since I have seen the islands and been here. We are one people, though different in colour; we are of the one Father ; we are under the same Queen, our Mother Queen Victoria; she is your protector; she is our protector. My sincere hope and wish is that our Heavenly Father may give you every blessing, grant you prosperity, health, and comfort. I conclude this interview, which I have every reason to believe is one of the most important that has ever taken place in this Island of Rarotonga. I commend what I have said to your judgment, trusting that He who rules everything and directs men in the right course will help you to come to sound conclusions.

Ngamaru (Ariki), Chief of the Government and Consort of Makea, then addressed Mr. Seddon. He said: The Premier of New Zealand, greeting to you. I am saying to you that I have listened to all the words you have spoken to-day. I say, not only on behalf of myself, but on behalf of every Ariki who has heard your words, that we consider them good, and we wish to adopt them. What we mostly desire, in conclusion, is that the British Resident will give us his aid in explaining matters to us later on. The people who are causing trouble in this island are not many—it is not worthy of the name of trouble—and my last words to you, Sir, are greetings.

The British Resident, on behalf of the Arikis, and also the people of the islands, informed Mr. Seddon that they were very much gratified at seeing the visitors, and hoped that it would not be the last time of seeing the same party on a future occasion ; that it was intended to give the Premier an exhibition of Maori dancing, which had only been delayed by the business of the morning. The people would shortly appear before him and sing.

The Premier : I intend to have this ceremony perpetuated, and to have photographs taken with the Queen. I had Mrs. Seddon's photograph taken with the Queen of Tonga, and will also have it taken with the Queen of Rarotonga, who, I may say, is a most substantial Queen.

It was announced that presents were to be made to the Premier and his party. This was done in the following manner: The Premier's Secretary was asked to come to the different sets of presents, and to "take notice" from whom they came.

Ti (Ariki, Taraare, Mataiapo, and speaker for the Arikis) then stepped forward and said: This is a present from Makea (Ariki), Ngamaru (Ariki), Karaki (Ariki), the Mataiapos, Rangatiras, and people of Te Aukitonga, including sheep, &c., to the Premier and his party.

John Virakau said: I am speaker for Tinomana (Ariki of Puaikura). These are presents made by Ti (Ariki), Mataiapos, and her Rangatiras and people to the Premier and party—food, seven mats, and pigs.

Moaete said: This food is a present from Pa (Ariki) and Kainuku (Ariki), Mataiapos, and people of Takitumu to the Premier and his party—food, fowls, pigs, &c. (Addressing the Premier): The Arikis, Mataiapos, Rangatiras, and people of the district wish to make you a present of food, consisting of pigs, sheep, fowls, and native vegetables of this island, and Native-made mats. The food will be taken on board the vessel; the mats will be distributed to the recipients as their names are called out.

This was accordingly done.

The Premier said: Before we proceed further, I should like to say a few words to the Queen and chiefs assembled here. I am sure that these very nice presents that you have made to our party and myself will be kept by us as heirlooms, and those who come after us will respect them as coming from the Queen and chiefs of these islands. I have often read of the hospitality and kindness of the natives of these islands, and during the last few weeks have experienced that kindness, which is very pleasing, and which will ever be remembered. I am pleased also to see present the European residents of the islands. I bring to them from New Zealand our good wishes for their welfare. It is our desire to help them and to help the people of these islands, and, so far as we are able, we will do our best to promote the best interests of the people of these islands. It is also our desire that you should live together in these islands in harmony, and work together for the good of all. You must not forget that if there are differences amongst yourselves people outside will say that they can never have anything to do with a community which is always at enmity and always quarrelling. There will always be differences of opinion: differences of opinion have existed since the world began, and will continue to the end; but there should be no ill-feeling. Matters should be reasoned out in a friendly manner. I am very glad to say that since my arrival in the islands I have had no complaints of a serious nature: nothing but what, with a little friendly moderation and a little give-and-take, can be adjusted with profit to every one concerned. As I bring from New Zealand salutations and good wishes to all, so I wish to take back to New Zealand the good wishes of the residents of the islands of both races now inhabiting these islands. I have made some important suggestions to the authorities this morning, and these suggestions I have no doubt will find time to mature. We have no time to go into them fully now, but I feel sure you will find they are for the

good of the Arikis, the native people, and the Europeans of these islands. It remains for you and the authorities to give effect to them. Once you establish the Postal Convention between these islands and New Zealand, under which money-orders may be sent from the islands here to New Zealand, money-orders will be sent from New Zealand to the islands in payment for goods and produce.

The next question is that of currency. There is no doubt that the producers, merchants—in fact, every one on these islands—are suffering by the circulation of the Chilian dollar, and which is not of the best value. The American dollar is worth 4s.; the Chilian 1s. 9d. If, therefore, the latter is sent in payment for your produce, you receive what is worth only 1s. 9d. You are living in a fool's paradise, and losing money in these islands. The only way I see to grapple with the question is to have something to take the place of the present currency. Establish a post-office savings-bank here, where all moneys will be received and paid in British coin of the realm. I am sure both the native people and Europeans here will be glad to hear that the Queen and the Arikis have been only too pleased to assist in carrying out this suggestion; and as soon as ever the opportunity is given and details can be arranged this will be done. I think this ought to be proof positive that the authorities here are only too anxious to help the people as a whole.

The next question was that of getting an auxiliary steamer, a sailing-vessel with oil-engines, to act as a tender to go round the islands and collect produce and goods and bring them back to Rarotonga for shipment. She could also take passengers. I am sure every one must see the need for such a vessel in these islands. Where the most of your produce is of a perishable nature, consisting as it does of fruit, copra, and so forth, the necessity for regularity is imperative: there must be regularity. Now, suggestions have been made for the Government of New Zealand to come to the assistance of a particular trading firm or firms, and to help them to get a boat or steamer. To that I say "No," because it would be giving a monopoly to some particular firm or traders. I say that if assistance is given at all it should be given to the authorities. The vessel will also have a fixed maximum rate of charges for passenger-fares and goods, and it will be open for all, and will not be monopolised by a few; it must belong to the authorities. I believe, if you work together and submit proposals on the lines which I have laid down, I can get the Parliament of New Zealand to render this assistance; and all we ask in return is that you pay the interest on the money advanced, the capital being paid off by instalments extending over a number of years; to keep the vessel fully insured, and

to give preference to produce which is sent from and to New Zealand. I may say that there are plenty of people who sympathize with you and take a deep interest in you; this is expressed from their lips, but I like to show sympathy in a practical way, and so prove my sympathy, and this is what I propose to submit to our Parliament. But I would impress upon you to work together as a community to improve yourselves, and then we shall be in a position to help you.

Another matter which wants seeing to is the boat-landing. I find that owing to the landing at some of the islands, such as Mangaia, where you have to go over the reef in a canoe, it is very dangerous; Niue is very little better; Aitutaki has a tortuous channel studded with rocks; and there are other islands with no boat-landing at all. We have in New Zealand submarine mining experts, who, with a few charges of gun-cotton, could make foot-landings in all these places at a very little cost indeed. You want a wharf here at Rarotonga very badly. I mean a wharf alongside of which steamers and vessels could go, or such as a vessel we have here (the "Tutanekai") could be berthed at. The less handling the goods have the more convenient it is for the vessel, and it is a saving to the owner. As an engineer myself, and having had some considerable experience, I tell you now that at very little expense a wharf could be built here alongside of which the "Tutanekai" could go. All these things are matters which require your attention. I have noticed them as I have gone along, and I have placed my views before the authorities this morning as I have placed them before you—the people. I left New Zealand and came to you for the benefit of my health, which, I am glad to say, is very much improved, and saw no reason why, when going through the islands, I should not take notice of what I thought was for your welfare. I think I shall be able to do good, and to show the people what can be done for their benefit. I think this kind of thing helps to restore health. It makes a man feel better whenever he has done a good turn to a friend; you have the satisfaction on doing it to feel pleased with yourself at having done it. This is the feeling we should have when we make suggestions for giving better opportunities to others to enjoy the gifts God has bestowed on them. All this is for the common good; all this tends to prosperity; and whenever people are prosperous there is no quarrelling; they live under conditions which were intended by our Creator for our good. It is natural to human nature to long for freedom, to wish for justice, the removal and redress of grievances, and for anything to be done within a reasonable limit for the common good; but it cannot be done by quarrelling and bickering.

There are some people on these islands who are discontented. There are some people who can always do better than other people can do, but if you give them a chance they break down. Now, I feel satisfied and sure, as I stand here, that there is nothing seriously wrong, and when you feel that there is every desire on the part of the authorities to help you, and that they are doing their best to help you, prosperity, confidence, and good will follow; but you must all pull together. I always like to speak plainly, and I tell you now that no one will have anything to do with a people who are always quarrelling amongst themselves. Work together for the common good; let there be no divisions amongst you, but be as one people, and you will then be prosperous. These are a few subjects briefly mentioned. I like to let people know clearly and distinctly what I am driving at, to give a reason for it, and a good reason too.

I have advised the authorities here to pass a law the same as we have in New Zealand, restricting the Chinese coming to these islands, for I know the evils that have arisen in different parts of the world by having too many Chinese amongst the people. All the larger cities in the colonies have good reason to complain of the large number of Chinese located in them. Look at the Hawaiian Islands: the Chinese have been a perfect curse in Honolulu. I have suggested to the authorities here to raise the poll-tax from £25 to £100, the same as it is in New Zealand, and these conditions would only allow a limited few to come to these islands.

Another matter particularly affects the natives, and more particularly the children, and that is to have a regulation insisting that all the floors of dwellings shall be 4 ft. at least from the ground. Sleeping with the floor close to the ground breeds pulmonary disease; the heat draws the moisture up through the floor, and half the children die young owing to this. In addition to your losing them, the little ones and yourselves have to suffer great pain. The population is consequently not increasing, and never will increase unless you look to the sanitary arrangements respecting your native settlements. I have advised the authorities to pass an Act regulating the building of houses and the people living in them. I also brought under notice the separation of the boys and girls: that there should be subdivisions in the dwellings for the boys and girls to sleep in; and that the fathers and mothers should sleep in separate places from the girls and youths. I did this on the ground of health and morality. The authorities have agreed this morning to deal with this question. The Europeans here love their children, and do not care to part with them, and it is the same with the natives. Europeans have come amongst you, there have been changes,

but no one seems to have thought of what is required to preserve the health of the children. I say, preserve the health of these children and their morals. This should be the first duty of the authorities; I have commended it to them, and am delighted to know that they are going to grapple with the question. By my bringing everything under your notice in separate headings you now know what the authorities will be considering; you know now the reason why these suggestions have been submitted. I have no authority amongst you, I come simply as a visitor, with considerable experience, and with a strong desire to help the Queen, the Arikis, and the native people. I have placed my views before the authorities, and I have now placed them before you, and pointed out what I consider to be for your good as a community. Now, I am sure you will all be delighted when I tell you that, having submitted these suggestions to the authorities this morning, they unanimously, and at once, agreed to the whole of them, and will do their best to give effect to them. On my return to New Zealand I shall tender the same advice to the Governor of New Zealand. He, of course, is the representative of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, and trusted with the care of the islands. It is my duty, therefore, to give him the same opinions I have given you. I may say that I am going away delighted with my visit, delighted at meeting so many people and finding the islands in the satisfactory position I do, considering the difficulties under which you are living. There is room for improvement, I admit, but the way to remove difficulties is to work harmoniously for the common good. The way I have been met by the authorities, and the way they have received my suggestions, has given me great comfort. I am also pleased to find that our British Resident (Colonel Gudgeon) has given general satisfaction. It is, of course, impossible for any one man to please everybody; even the best Man that ever came on the face of the earth could not please everybody, and we know how He was treated. All that is wanted, and all that Colonel Gudgeon wants, is to do his duty without fear or favour, and for the benefit of all, and I call upon you all to support him in doing his duty. I tell you there is a great future for these islands; but there is one thing I would like to see, and that is, whilst you are educating your children I do not see that you are teaching them how to make a living; I should, therefore, like to see carpentering, boatbuilding, and trades taught, so that the young natives, in after life, could earn their own living.

With regard to fruit-growing, you might send some of your youths to New Zealand, and place them under our fruit experts there, and when they come back you would have the benefit of the knowledge they had gained. It has been said

that the native youths will not work, but it is because they have not the opportunity. I have met Maori youths in New Zealand who have been with mechanics, and turned out good workmen, and there is no reason why your youths here should not do the same. Technical education should be placed within the reach of the natives here. Do that, and you will soon find the difference. They have never been given a chance, and that is why the natives in different parts of the world have been condemned. The wealth of the islands depends upon the produce—produce that which can easily be grown. Now, rice, coffee, and cocoa should be grown here. I am told the insect life hurts the trees, yet no one seems to have tried to grapple with the difficulty. This is one of the matters that should be taken in hand and be dealt with. When increasing the population you must have increased products so as to bring increase of money. It would pay the Arikis and the authorities here if they gave a bonus for planting fruit-trees and for the cultivation of the various fruits and products that can be grown on the islands. As owners of the soil it would pay them and encourage growth if they made allowances for the purpose I have mentioned; it would pay them to give some concessions. We do it in European countries, and unless you do it here matters will go back.

I will now bring my remarks to a close, as I know the young people would rather be dancing than listening to speeches. It is my first visit, and it will probably be a long time before I come again, and I thought it would be a good opportunity, having the Queen, the Arikis, the native people, the traders, and the settlers all assembled here, to speak plainly to them and say what I thought was for their good. However, I wish you one and all to understand this: that so long as I have the power to help you I shall do so, and that in the Government of New Zealand, its people, and myself you have sincere friends. I wish you now every happiness and prosperity, and may the blessings provided by our Creator be showered upon you and those who come after you. Salutations; good-bye.

[An exhibition of native dancing and singing was then given.]

The Premier said it was very pleasing to the visitors to have had the opportunity to be present at an entertainment which he would say was, as far as his party was concerned, novel to a degree—in fact, they had never seen anything like it before, and it was quite possible they would never see anything like it again. Dancing had been known since the world began, and he thought we should have dancing to the end of the world. People, however, danced in different ways: some danced on their heads, but to-day they had seen some of the

young men dancing on other's backs. He was pleased to find them all so happy, and to have accepted at their hands the nice entertainment they had furnished the visitors with. He assured them it would ever be kindly remembered, and that they would go back to New Zealand and tell the Maoris there that they must come to the Cook Islands to get lessons in dancing, and they could then teach the Cook-Islanders how to dance the "Haka." Ka mate, ka mate, ka ora, ka ora!

Appendix E.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME FROM THE RESIDENTS OF RAROTONGA.

SIR,— Rarotonga, May, 1900.

We, the undersigned residents of Rarotonga, take great pleasure in welcoming you to the Cook Islands, and hope the rest and change will restore you to health and vigour after your arduous labours as Premier of New Zealand.

Owing to the present anomalous relation of the Cook Islands Government to that of our fostering Government—namely, New Zealand—especially in regard to the independent and irresponsible character of our Courts of justice, we feel insecure and dissatisfied with our present condition.

We were greatly pleased to read in the newspaper report of your speech, recently delivered in Wellington, in which you stated that your Government "was prepared to take the responsibility of extending the boundaries of New Zealand so as to include the Cook Islands." Since you have yourself thus suggested annexation, we are the more bold and happy to assure you that we believe no other solution of our difficulties will give us so much security and satisfaction, and that not only the white residents of the islands, but the natives also, will welcome the change which you suggest.

Hoping yourself and family will enjoy your stay in Rarotonga, and your life and health may be long preserved for usefulness,

We are,

Your obedient servants,

(Signed)	Tho. Shearman.	Richard Donaldson.
	Charles J. Ward.	Osborne J. P. Widstoe.
	Thos. B. Short.	Mervin W. Davis.
	E. Mathews.	Benjamin A. Johnson.
	Vancouver Estall.	Tom. Shearman.
	Wm. Taylor.	James Harrison.
	Charles W. Banks.	G. Monteiiro.
	William Mansfield.	R. Nicholas.
	Henry Nicholson.	K. Nicholas.

Henry Wichmann.	George R. Creemmee.
E. Deane.	Cheerbun Smith.
Ah Foo.	B. Cominye.
James Ate.	H. Cokiry.
Wong Soon.	P. K. M. Cowans.
Wong Yet Ming.	Jas. Rennie.
Jesse D. Rice.	W. H. Oliver.
Frank Gill.	Allen Mitchel.
Old Shing.	John Snow.
Gideon Head.	W. A. Macalister.
H. James Binsby.	

Appendix F.

PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR (LORD RANFURLY) APPOINTING THE RIGHT HON. R. J. SEDDON A COMMISSIONER.

RANFURLY, Governor.

To all to whom these presents shall come, and to the Right Honourable Richard John Seddon, Esquire, P.C., LL.D., Premier of New Zealand.

WHEREAS Makea Ariki and others have petitioned that the Island of Rarotonga and other islands of the Cook and Hervey Groups, in the South Pacific Ocean, should be annexed to the British Empire: And whereas it is necessary that arrangements, subject to the approval of Her Majesty the Queen and the Parliament of the Colony of New Zealand, should be made with reference to the annexation of the said islands:

Now, therefore, I, Uchter John Mark, Earl of Ranfurly, Governor of the Colony of New Zealand, in pursuance and exercise of all powers and authorities enabling me in this behalf, do hereby appoint you, the said Richard John Seddon, to be a Commissioner for the purpose of making any such arrangements as aforesaid, and you are hereby accordingly authorised to negotiate for and to make any such arrangements subject as aforesaid.

Given under the hand of His Excellency the Right Honourable Uchter John Mark, Earl of Ranfurly, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over Her Majesty's Colony of New Zealand and its dependencies, at Auckland, in the said colony, this nineteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred.

DUDLEY ALEXANDER, Captain,
Private Secretary, Auckland.

Appendix G.

LETTER TO QUEEN MAKEA, INFORMING HER MAJESTY MAFEKING WAS RELIEVED.

Rarotonga, 10th June, 1900.

Makea, Chief of the Federal Government.

You will be delighted to hear that Mafeking has been relieved, and that the power of the Boer forces throughout South Africa is demoralised. There has been great rejoicing throughout the Empire, and I am sure that none will rejoice more than you and your people at the success which has attended the arms of our good Queen Victoria. Our receipt of the pleasing intelligence of the relief of Mafeking has ended a most pleasant stay with you and your people in these interesting and beautiful islands, and it is a good augury for the future. I deemed it to be my duty to convey the news to you at the earliest possible moment.

I must now say good-bye, and sincerely wishing you, your husband, and your people every blessing and prosperity,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

R. J. Seddon.

Appendix H.

LETTER TO DR. CALDWELL,

In reply to his Letter sent on behalf of the Seventh Day Adventists, complaining of the Change of Sunday.

Dear Sir,— Rarotonga, 10th June, 1900.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th May, alleging that the Government is not accomplishing the good of the natives, and that intimidation and religious persecution have been practised on the islands to such an extent as to make it a discredit. As you are aware, I am only a visitor to your island in search of health, and if there are any complaints or a wish for a change in the Constitution they should be made to the Governor of New Zealand, the Cook Islands authorities, or the British Resident; and knowing as I do that there is an earnest desire on the part of those intrusted with the control of the islands to promote the well-being of the natives, freedom, justice, and religious liberty, I am surprised that there should be any

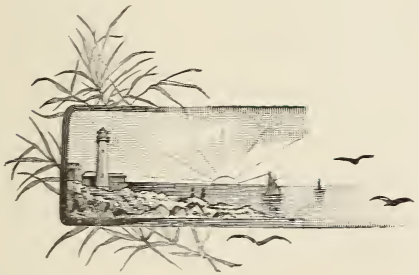
ground whatever for the memorandum under reply, and that the other questions mentioned are in an unsatisfactory condition.

On the question of time, and what is really the seventh day, it varies in different parts of the world, just as does the seventh day of the Israelites differ from that of the Christians. I have no desire to wound your feelings or differ from you as to the particular day, but, so long as one day is set apart for rest and worship, the question of which day it should be might be left to those best able to determine the same.

Thanking you very kindly indeed for your personal good wishes,

I am,
Yours sincerely,
R. J. Seddon.

E. Caldwell, Esq., M.D., Rarotonga.



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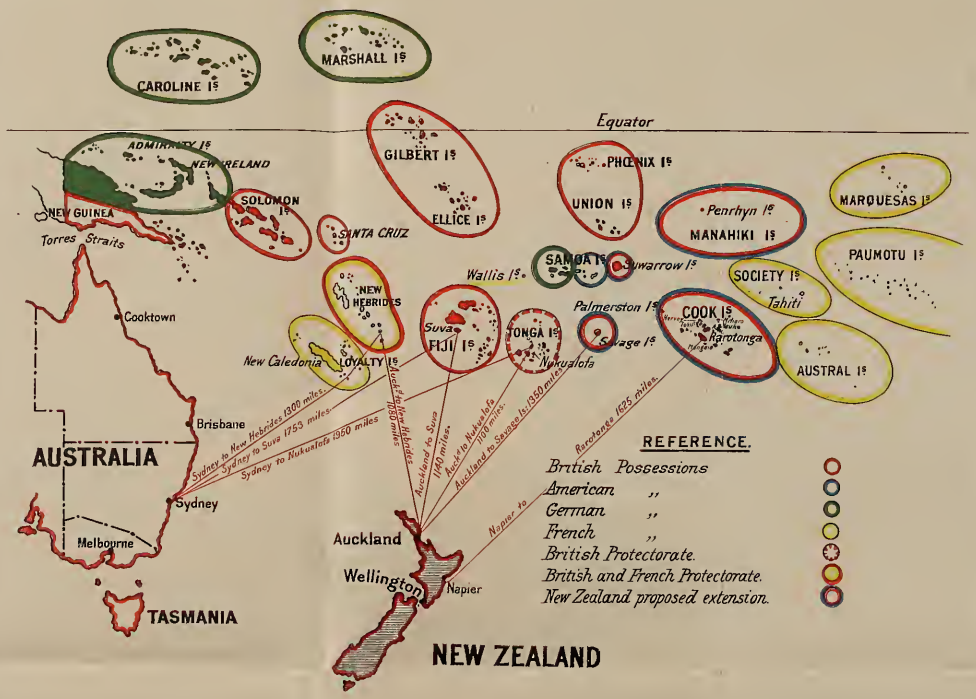


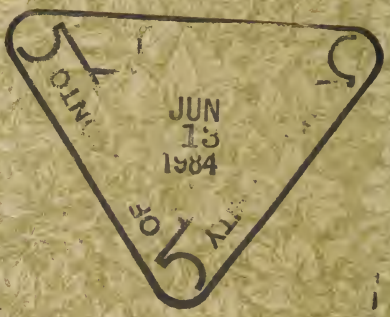
DISTRIBUTION OF ISLANDS IN THE PACIFIC

English Miles.
0 200 400 600 800 1000

(Ocean routes in Nautical miles, 60 = 1°.)

	Lat.	Long.
Rarotonga	21° 12′ S.	159° 47′ W.
Takutea	19° 49′ S.	158° 16′ W.
Atiu	20° —′ S.	158° 10′ W.
Mitiaro	19° 49′ S.	157° 40′ W.
Mauke	20° 10′ S.	157° 22′ W.
Hervey (Manual), Te Anotu	19° 18′ S.	158° 43° W.
Mangaia	21° 55′ S.	157° 56′ W.
Penrhyn	9° —′ S.	158° 03′ W.
Suwarrow	13° 13′ S.	163° 09′ W.

(Approximately as far as latitude and longitude are concerned.)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